

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

H.B. NO. 9977



Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the most recent COVID-19 response program of the government, Republic Act No. 11525, otherwise known as the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021 was enacted to launch the vaccination program of the government and make essential social services available to all people at an affordable cost. Procurement, sourcing out, administration and creation of indemnity fund were among the thrust of the said law.

One of the key feature provided for of this Act was the granting of exemption from import duties, taxes and other fees in the procurement, deployment and administration of the COVID-19 vaccines. However, the effectivity of the said Act shall remain in full force during the period of the state of calamity as declared under Proclamation No., 1021 dated September 16, 2020 issued by the President of the Philippines.

Proclamation No. 1021 dated September 16, 2020 is set to expire on September 12, 2021. Hence, by September 13, 2021 onwards, all procurement, deployment and administration of COVID-19 vaccines, despite the extension of the effectivity of Proclamation No. 1021 under separation issuance, strictly speaking, will now subject to import duties, taxes and other fees.

It is then imperative to pass a measure providing for a clear effectivity of Section 11 of R.A. No. 11525 in pursuit of the objectives of the said law.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought for.


SHARON S. GARIN
Party List, AAMBIS-OWA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

H.B. NO. 9977

Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin

AN ACT
EXTENDING THE EFFECTIVITY OF EXEMPTION FROM IMPORT DUTIES,
TAXES AND OTHER FEES FOR THE PROCUREMENT, DEPLOYMENT AND
ADMINISTRATION OF COVID-19 VACCINES PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION
11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11525, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COVID-19
VACCINATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2021

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION. 1. *Extension of the Effectivity of the Import Duties, Taxes and Other Fees for the Procurement, Deployment and Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines.* – The provision under Section 11 of Republic Act No. 11525, otherwise known as the Covid-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021 shall remain in full force and effect beginning September 13, 2021 up to December 31, 2023.

Beginning September 13, 2021 up to December 31, 2023, the procurement, importation, donation, storage, transport, deployment, and administration of COVID-19 vaccine through the COVID-19 Vaccination Program by the government or any of its political subdivision and by private entities shall be exempt from customs duties, value-added tax, excise tax, donor's tax, and other fees: *Provided*, That the vaccines shall not be intended for resale or other commercial use and shall be distributed without consideration from person to be vaccinated.

SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within five (5) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Finance, in coordination with National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the objectives and provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulation, or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette and shall remain in full force and effect up to December 31, 2023.

Approved,