

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 10249



Introduced by Representative FLORIDA “RIDA” P. ROBES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

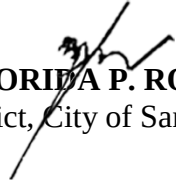
The Coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) has wreaked havoc in the lives of each and every person in the planet. It has killed millions of people, deprived millions of their businesses and employment, caused economic recession in most parts of the world, disrupted our children’s education and caused an overall disruption of our everyday lives.

Medical experts and scientists, including the World Health Organization, have expressed statements that they see an “anticipated lengthy duration” of the pandemic. The emergence of the Delta variant and the virus’ continuing mutations have further complicated response efforts to the virus highlighting the need for sustained community, national and global response programs.

The WHO has repeatedly declared that vaccines are one of the most effective tools for protecting people against COVID-19. There have been many discussions on whether Covid-19 vaccines should be made voluntary or mandatory. The WHO has postulated that it is not uncommon for governments and institutions to implement mandatory vaccination of Covid-19 and it can be considered ethically justified in order to protect the health and well-being of the public.

In the Philippines, the implementation of a mandatory vaccination program is also not uncommon. We have Republic Act 10152 which is an Act providing for the mandatory basic immunization services for infants and children and Republic Act 7846 which requires compulsory immunization against Hepatitis-B for infants and children below eight (8) years old. In the face of worldwide pandemic that is ravaging our country, it is crucial to implement a mandatory Covid-19 vaccination program for people who are eligible to get the vaccines in order to protect ourselves and our families but enable us to regain our economic foothold and resume our lives.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is urged.



FLORIDA P. ROBES
Lone District, City of San Jose Del monte

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session**

House Bill No. 10249

Introduced by Representative FLORIDA “RIDA” P. ROBES

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) VACCINE FOR
ALL FILIPINO CITIZENS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE VACCINE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) Vaccination Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote and protect physical health and overall well-being of the citizenry and provide for optimum opportunities to develop the economy for the growth of the nation. Toward this end, the State must adopt a comprehensive, mandatory and strategic vaccination program for Coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) for all Filipinos qualified to receive the vaccine.

SECTION 3. Coverage. – Covid-19 vaccines shall be administered by any duly licensed physician, nurse or midwife to all Filipinos and residents of the Philippines who are eligible to receive the vaccines.

Section 4. Exemptions. – The provisions of this Act shall not apply to a person with conflicting religious belief or with medical condition that would make vaccination detrimental to his/her health as certified by a duly licensed physician.

SECTION 5. Vaccination Fees. – All expenses for Covid-19 vaccines shall be fully subsidized by the government. Nothing in this Act shall however preclude private companies from procuring their own Covid-19 vaccines provided that same shall be given free of charge to their employees.

Section 6. Vaccine Pass. – People who have received their full dose of Covid-19 vaccine shall be given a Vaccine Pass as proof of their full vaccination status. The said Vaccine Pass may be used to access any public tourism resort, accommodation, assembly or amusement center.

SECTION 7. Enforcement. – Except those provided in Section 4 thereof, people who shall refuse to get Covid-19 vaccination shall be imposed a penalty of imprisonment of up to thirty (30) days and/or a fine of P10,000.00.

Section 8. Continuing Education and Training of Health Personnel. The Department of Health, with the assistance of local government units, academe, professional societies and non-governmental organizations, shall undertake a continuing information, education and training programs for all health personnel on the rationale and benefits of as well as latest developments on Covid-19 vaccines.

Section 9. Non-discrimination. - Nothing in this Act may be used to discriminate against those who refuse to get vaccinated for religious belief or health reason or cause the loss of their employment or enrollment in any educational institution.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – To implement provisions of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), shall promulgate the rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

Section 11. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be taken from the annual budgetary allocation of the Department of Health and shall be immediately included in the following year's General Appropriations Act, and thereafter.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of the Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other Provisions hereof which are not affected hereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, rules and regulation inconsistent with the provision of this Act hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity. – This shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,