



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

**House Bill No. 3693**



---

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE**

---

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

More than two years since the start of the global pandemic, nations across the world are still reeling from the effects of COVID-19. While some countries have started to move forward and open their borders, there are still those who continue to impose lockdowns and other preventive restrictions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the important role medical experts play in the battle against viruses. They help key decision and policy makers create a strategy to contain the spread of the coronavirus through efficient and effective research and development processes. Virologists, in particular, helped track the cause and spread of the COVID-19 virus. As experts in the field of viral infections, they investigate and study how a specific virus respond to antiviral drugs and help create potential vaccines.

It is therefore imperative for the Philippines to establish a dedicated research institute that dives into the in-depth study of viruses—including how to diagnose, manage, and prevent viral infections—and vaccines. We've already seen how essential medical frontliners, virologists included, are in saving lives and reducing the economic impact of a global pandemic caused by a virus.

So this House Bill seeks to create the Virology and Vaccine Institute, which shall serve as the leading research and development institute in the Philippines in the field of virology and vaccine.

In view thereof, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**REP. MARLYN B. ALONTE**  
Lone District of Binan



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3693

---

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE

---

**AN ACT CREATING THE VIROLOGY AND VACCINE INSTITUTE  
OF THE PHILIPPINES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND  
FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it 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 Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines.

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.** - It shall  
hereby be the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the  
right to health of the people, instill health consciousness among them and  
improve the quality of life of every Filipino through empowering and  
enabling local research efforts, endeavors, advancements and  
developments.

In line with this, the State recognizes the importance of the establishment  
of a virology and vaccine research and development institute that will  
conduct vaccine research, development, invention and innovation for the  
protection of the people and the preservation of all life.

**SECTION 3. CREATION OF THE VIROLOGY AND  
VACCINE INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES.** - To carry out the  
provisions of this Act, and to ensure alignment with national policies and  
priorities, the *Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines* shall be attached  
to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for purposes of policy and  
program coordination.

The institute shall serve as the leading research and development institute  
in the field of virology and vaccine, encompassing all areas in viruses and  
vaccines for humans, plants, and animals.

The institute shall act as a venue for scientists, both here and abroad, to work  
collaboratively to study viruses and vaccines in all fields and environmental  
importance.

The Institute shall establish strategic partnerships with the world's leading scientists, virology and vaccine centers.

The institutes shall conduct innovative and pioneering researches that will advance the frontiers of virology and vaccination in the country.

**SECTION 4. AUTHORITY.** - The Institute shall therefor implement policies, plans, programs, and projects for the development of virology and vaccine technology in the country for both the public and private sectors.

The institute shall ensure that the results of these activities are properly applied towards self-reliance and utilized to accelerate economic and social development towards the protection of the all its citizenry and its environment.

**SECTION 5. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS.** – To fulfill the foregoing declared policies and objectives, the institute shall have the following powers and functions:

- a). Act as the lead implementor of the Virology and Vaccineresearch that will spearhead the inception and materialization of a national virology research plan;
- b). Foster the transfer of the results of scientific research and development to concerned government agencies, industry;
- c). Develop an information system on virology and vaccinestechnology for use by both the public and private sectors;
- d). Implement, together with other entities concerned, programs for strengthening research and development technological capabilities in virology and vaccination and other relevant disciplines through human resource development, infrastructure, and institution building;
- e). Undertake research and development innovations that directly address the current state of existing and emerging viruses and infectious diseases;
- f). Coordinate with appropriate local and international bodies in forming effective diagnostic strategies;
- g). Provide laboratory and technical services on virology and vaccines; and
- h). Support efforts towards the training of Filipino virology experts and local researches.

**SECTION 6. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.** - The institute be an attached agency under the Department of Science and Technology (**DOST**) for purposes of policy and program coordination, and to ensure alignment in national policies and priorities.

The institute shall be composed of the following offices and divisions:

- a). Virology Research;
- b). Diagnostics and Statistics Research;
- c). Vaccines Research;
- d). Technical Services and Training;
- e). Policy, Planning, and Relations;
- f). Finance and Administration

Subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management (**DBM**), the institute shall determine its organizational structure and create new divisions and staffing patterns as it may deem necessary.

**SECTION 7. THE SUPREME COUNCIL.** - The Supreme Council shall be the principal policy-making body for the research and development activities of the Institute. The institute shall be composed of the following:

- 1). Chairperson, Secretary of **DOST**;
- 2). Co-chairperson, Undersecretary for **R&D**, **DOST**;
- 3). Member, Undersecretary of Department of Health (**DOH**);
- 4). Member, Director of the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control; and
- 5). Member, Director of Philippine Virology and Vaccine Institute.

**SECTION 8. TRANSFER OF OFFICES AND UNITS.** - All offices and staffing under the **DOST** system that are handling matters related to virology and vaccination shall be transferred to the institute.

This mandatory transfer shall include the functions, appropriations, funds, records, equipment, facilities, choses in action, rights, other assets, and liabilities, if any.

**SECTION 9. INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES.** - The institute shall enter into a memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding with international partners, upon the approval of its *Supreme Council*.

**SECTION 10. TO MAGNACARTA BENEFITS.** - All Qualified employees of the institute shall be covered by **Republic Act No. 8439**, otherwise known as "*Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and Other Science and Technology Personnel in Government*".

**SECTION 11. ANNUAL REPORT.** - The institute shall submit analysis and findings to the President and the Committee on Science and Technology in both Chambers of the Congress not later than the 15th of April of every year following the effectivity of this Act.

The report shall provide a detailed account of the status of the implementation of this Act and recommended legislation, where applicable and necessary.

**SECTION 12. APPROPRIATION.** – the DOST Secretary shall include the implementation of this Act in the DOST’s programs. The amounts necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 13. UTILIZATION OF INCOME.** - The institute shall be authorized to use all the income generated from its operations, as well as donations, bequests, grants for the upgrading of its physical and human resources, and for the augmentation of its budget, as needed.

**SECTION 14. TRANSITORY PROVISION** – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six (6) months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

**SECTION 15. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.**  
– The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

**SECTION 16. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 17. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 18. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,

