

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5665



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)** under the **Department of Health (DOH)**, with the category of a first-class line bureau, shall have a nationwide scope of function and international commitment in accord with the International Health Regulations (**IHR**) of the world Health Organization (**WHO**). This is in accordance with the provisions of **Republic Act No. 9271** or the **Quarantine Act of 2004**.

The examination at ports of entry and exit in the Philippines of incoming and outgoing vessels and aircraft, the necessary surveillance over their sanitary conditions, as well as over their cargoes, passengers, crews, and all personal effects, and the issuance of quarantine certificates, bills of health or other equivalent documents shall be vested in and be conducted by the Bureau. This Bureau shall have authority over incoming vessels and outgoing vessels both domestic and foreign, including those of the army and navy, their wharfage and anchorage, and over aircraft and airports, insofar as it is necessary for the proper enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

This House Bill seeks to augment local and international health surveillance in the prevention of the spread of global diseases. Therefor providing for **stiffer penalties and sanctions**.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'M' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO

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AN ACT
AMENDING **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9271** OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS “THE **QUARANTINE ACT OF 2004**”, TO FOSTER THE
IMPOSITION OF EXISTING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES,
INCREASING ITS PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines
in congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 9271, is hereby
amended to read as follows:

SEC. 8. *Penalties.* — (a) Any person who violates any regulation prescribed in this Act shall forfeit to the Bureau of Quarantine a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos (**₱50,000.00**) but not more than One hundred Fifty thousand pesos (**₱150,000.00**) or be imprisoned for not less than two (**2**) years or both at the discretion of the court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) Any vessel or aircraft that violates any provision this Act shall forfeit to the Bureau of Quarantine a fine of not less than five hundred thousand pesos (**₱500,000.00**) but not more than one million five hundred thousand pesos (**₱1,500,000.00**).

SECTION 2. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 9271, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 9. *Authority to Utilize Income.* — The Bureau of Quarantine shall be authorized to use at least sixty percent **(60%)** of the income generated, subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 3. QUARANTINE LOCATIONS — The Director of the **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)** shall control direct and manage all quarantine stations, grounds and anchorages, and designate their boundaries. With the approval of the Secretary of Health, he shall establish such additional quarantine stations, grounds and anchorages if, in his judgment, these are necessary to prevent the introduction of diseases of international concern into the country.

The Director of the **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)**, in the same manner may also order the closure of non-functional quarantine, stations, grounds and anchorages.

SECTION 4. 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 5. 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 6. 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 7. 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,