

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

19TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5666



Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under **Republic Act No. 9271** or the **Quarantine Act of 2004**, 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**).

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 provide **Modernization Funding** to the **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)**, to augment local and international health surveillance in the prevention of the spread of global diseases.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. ROMERO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5666

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR MODERNIZATION FUNDINGFOR THE **BUREAU OF QUARANTINE (BOQ)**, INCREASING AND REORGANIZING ITS ADMINISTRATION, TO PROMOTE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE, TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF GLOBAL DISEASES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY – It shall hereby be a declared policy of the State that the **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)**, under the **Republic Act No. 9271** or the **Quarantine Act of 2004**, a first-class line bureau of the Department of Health (**DOH**) mandated to ensure security against the introduction of and spread of infectious diseases, emerging diseases and public health emergencies of international concern.

The state shall endeavor to live by the established core values of the **BOQ** and adapt the appropriate technology in the fight against infectious and emerging diseases, and other health emergencies.

The state shall continually improve the effectiveness of our Quality Management System towards equitable development for improved quality of life for all.

The state shall formulate policies for the efficient and effective administration and management of all manpower, skills and competencies to ensure compliance.

SECTION 2. MODERNIZATION FUNDING. – The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (**Php 500,000,000.00**) for the operation and administration of the **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)** shall be chargeable against funds for the purpose and other sources recommended by the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)**. Thereafter, appropriations for the **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)** shall be included in the budget proposals under the Department of Health (**DOH**).

The Department of Budget and Management (**DBM**) shall rationalize the existing organizational structure and staffing pattern of the **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)** in accordance with the provisions of this Act and relevant compensation and position classification laws, rules and regulations.

Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the modernization program, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (**GAA**).

SECTION 3. BUREAU OF QUARANTINE (BOQ) MODERNIZATION FUND – There is hereby created the (**BOQ**) *Modernization Fund* to be used exclusively for the (**BOQ**) *Modernization Program*.

The (**BOQ**) *Modernization Fund* shall be administered by the Secretary of the **DOH** in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. PROGRESS REPORT –The Secretary of **DOH** shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the **(BOQ) Modernization Programs** which shall be submitted, to the Office of the President and to the Chairpersons of the Committee on Health of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SECTION 5. PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION –The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented for an initial period of two **(2)** years:

Provided, that payments for multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period:

Provided, further, That the **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)** shall continue to develop, modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

SECTION 6. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS.– The **Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)** shall continue to exercise and uphold the following powers and functions; but not limited to:

To prevent international spread of diseases of global impact with minimum interference to international travel and trade through:

- a)** Effective surveillance and control measures on infectious diseases and other health concerns with global impact through local and international networking.
- b)** Strong and comprehensive national sanitation programs in all seaports and airports of entry in partnership with local counterparts.
- c)** Partnerships in research and development.

SECTION 7. INCREASE OF PERSONNEL. – The **BOQ** shall maintain the sufficient staffing pattern. Hence, it is authorized to increase its manpower to meet such required and may continue to increase personnel per percentage rate increase of committed mandates annually or as the need arises.

SECTION 8. 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 9. 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 10. 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 11. 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 12. 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,