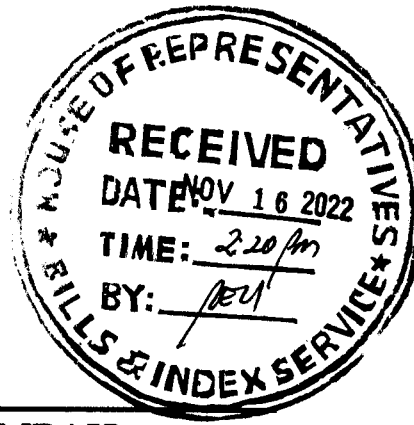


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 6175



Introduced by Rep. Anthony R.T. Golez Jr. MD, MBAH

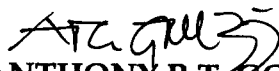
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This representation seeks the creation of a Medical Reserve Corps that will be called upon to serve the public in times of national emergencies. The Medical Reserve Corps shall be composed of licensed physicians, nurses, medical technologists, persons who have degrees in the field of medicine, nursing, medical technology and other health-related fields, members of the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the Medical Service, and administrative and technical personnel.

The proposed bill herein envisions that in times of national emergencies and other contingencies, the members of the Medical Reserve Corps shall be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government to address the medical and health needs of the public. The need for a Medical Reserve Corps became apparent during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Philippines needed extra helping hands to address the medical needs of Filipinos. The approval of the proposed legislation will cover the situation where the current and regular pool of medical personnel can no longer everything on the table because the scale of the national emergency is so big. The proposed creation of a Medical Reserve Corps is a proactive legislation intended to make the Philippines more resilient in times of crises.

At this point it would be elucidating to highlight the Constitutional provision on the matter, to wit: "The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service" (Section 4, Article II, 1987 Constitution). Further, the Constitution also mandates that: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them" (Section 15, Article II, 1987 Constitution)

In view of the foregoing, this representation respectfully prays for the approval of the proposed bill for the Filipino people.


HON. ANTHONY R.T. GOLEZ JR. MD, MBAH
Malasakit at Bayanihan Partylist

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**AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS 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 "Medical Reserve Corps Act of 2022."

Section 2. Statement of Policy. It shall be the policy of the State:

- a. To institutionalize the vital role of medical and health-related personnel in nation-building, promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being; to inculcate in them patriotism and nationalism; and to encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.
- b. To train, equip and organize medical and health-related personnel, within the current frameworks of national and territorial defense, law enforcement and peace and order and national disaster risk reduction and management, to prepare them for rapid mobilization at the soonest possible time in order to address national and/or local contingencies which may require manpower beyond the capabilities of existing national government agencies or local government units.

Section 3. Medical Reserve Corps. There is hereby established a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) under the Health Emergency Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH). The MRC shall be composed of licensed physicians, nurses, medical technologists, persons who have degrees in the field of medicine, nursing, medical technology and other health-related fields, members of the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the Medical Service, and administrative and technical personnel.

Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH shall issue guidelines on the recruitment, selection and length of service of the MRC members. The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall determine

and provide appropriate compensation and incentives for MRC members in order to encourage membership to the MRC.

The Medical Reserve Corps shall be called for retraining every three (3) years to maintain and enhance its level of competency and readiness for mobilization.

Section 4. Medical Reserve Corps Mobilization. In times of national emergencies and other contingencies, the members of the Medical Reserve Corps may be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities, and local government units in their functions related to addressing the medical needs of the public.

The DOH, in consultation with the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall issue guidelines for the requests for deployment and mobilization of the MRC.

Section 5. Annual Reports. The DOH shall regularly publish an annual report containing a list of its accomplishments, status of its operations, number and demography of the Medical Reserve Corps, assessment of readiness for mobilization and the incidence and details of each mobilization for the year concerned.

Section 6. Requests for Deployment. The Medical Reserve Corps may be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities, and the local government units in their functions related to addressing the medical needs of the public through requests for deployment by the heads of such national government agencies or local government units submitted to the DOH.

The requests shall contain a justification for the deployment of the Corps and shall contain information as may be required by the DOH, including the nature of the national or local contingencies to be addressed, the purpose of the requested deployment, the number of personnel requested to be deployed and the period of deployment.

Section 7. Evaluation of the Requests for Deployment. Within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the requests for deployment, the DOH shall evaluate the requests for deployment and issue an Order of Deployment requiring the Corps, or a number thereof, to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities or the local government units in their functions related to addressing the health-related needs of the public.

Section 8. Deployment in Case of a Declaration of a State of War, State of Lawless Violence or State of Calamity; Nationwide Mobilization. In case of a declaration of a state of calamity or state of public health emergency, the DOH shall be authorized to mobilize the Corps to respond to national or local contingencies to address the health-related needs of the public.

Section 9. Mobilization Centers. There shall be designated mobilization centers in every province, where the MRC will report in case of deployment.

In case of mobilization, the equipment and housing of the Corps shall be supplied in close coordination with the DOH and other national agencies and offices, with the end in view of achieving rapid mobilization.

Section 10. Operationalization of Deployment. The DOH, in consultation with the DND and DILG, shall promulgate the specific mechanisms by which deployment is efficiently implemented, including the organization of the Corps to be deployed, their territorial assignments, how deployment orders are communicated to each member of the Corps and to which mobilization center they will report.

Section 11. Termination of Deployment. Upon the expiration of the requested period of deployment, without an extension having been requested and approved by the DOH, the Corps shall be discharged of its duties. The deployment may also be terminated earlier upon a determination by the DOH, in consultation with the requesting national government agency or local government unit, that such deployment is no longer in accordance with the objectives and purposes of this Act.

Section 12. Effect on Employment. Deployment of employees in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall not be a ground for dismissal or diminution of any benefit enjoyed by such graduates prior to their deployment. The members of the Corps shall continue to be entitled to their regular wage or salary during the period of their deployment.

Section 13. Penal Provisions - Failure to Respond.

a. Failure to respond to the order of deployment despite notice sent to the address and/or contact details on file with the DOH without any justifiable reason shall, upon conviction by a civil court, be punishable as follows:

1. First Offense: One hundred and twenty (120) hours of community service.
2. Second Offense: Two hundred and forty (240) hours of community service.
3. Third and Subsequent Offenses: Six (6) months imprisonment and four hundred and eighty (480) hours of community service.

Section 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with relevant government agencies, shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the objectives and purposes of this Act. The rules and regulations shall include provisions on the structure and organization of the Corps, the specific mechanisms for the efficient mobilization and deployment of the Corps, and such other matters as the DOH may deem necessary or essential to fully implement the objectives and purposes of this Act.

Section 15. Appropriations. The funding for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, funding shall be included in the budget of the DOH under the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 16. Repealing Clause. All laws, orders, rules regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 17. Separability Clause. Any provision of this Act declared unconstitutional shall not affect the validity of the other provisions thereof.

Section 18. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,