

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8531



Introduced by **Rep. FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS**
1stDistrict, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the procurement of hospital supplies and equipment, one common complaint is that due to the lengthy period for the processing of documents, as well as the papers required from the supplier to the hospital, life-saving supplies and equipment are not expeditiously secured and the suppliers are not promptly paid. This is regrettable since the purpose of the Government Procurement Reform Act (Republic Act No. 9184) is not merely to curb graft and corruption but also to lessen delays in the procurement process.

During the pandemic, the “Bayanihan to Heal As One Act” (R. A. No. 11469), under Section 4 (k) (1) thereof, mandated the procurement of life-saving supplies and equipment “in the most expeditious manner”, by way of an exemption to the provisions of RA 9184. But since the pandemic emergency regulatory regime has basically lapsed, government procurement has to go through again with usual procedures under RA 9184.

This bill aims to expedite the procurement of life-saving medical supplies and equipment, amending for the purpose RA 9184. It seeks to improve the government procurement system by shortening the present bureaucratic intricacies, thus facilitating the procurement of essential medical supplies and equipment.

In view of the foregoing urgent considerations, the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS

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AN ACT
EXPEDITING THE PROCUREMENT OF LIFE-SAVING
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES, SUPPLIES,
MATERIALS, TOOLS AND CONSUMABLES, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT
PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Scope and Application. – This Act shall apply to the Procurement of Infrastructure Projects, Goods, and Consulting Services, regardless of source of funds, whether local or foreign, by all branches and instrumentalities of government, its departments, offices and agencies, including government-owned and/or -controlled corporations and local government units, subject to the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 138. Any treaty or international or executive agreement affecting the subject

matter of this Act to which the Philippine government is signatory shall be observed.

HOWEVER, FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF LIFE-SAVING MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND DEVICES, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, TOOLS AND CONSUMABLES, SUCH AS OXYGEN, ESSENTIAL MEDICINES AND COMMON MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CLEANING MATERIALS, TESTING KITS, SURGICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND ITS REAGENTS, SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE FOR LABORATORY AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, AND SUCH OTHER SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THIS ACT SHALL NOT APPLY. THESE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT SHALL BE PROCURED IN THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS MANNER.

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act”, as well as other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,