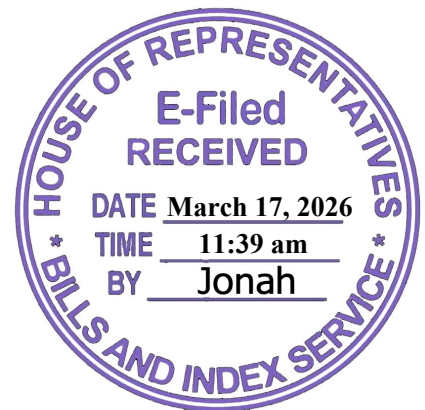


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8592



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

AN ACT

**REQUIRING AIR CARRIERS AND PASSENGER SHIP OPERATORS TO PROVIDE
EMERGENCY INJECTABLE ALLERGY MEDICATION ON BOARD, PRESCRIBING
MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR STOCKING, STORAGE, TRAINING, AND REPORTING,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, can become life-threatening within minutes if not treated immediately. During air or sea travel, access to hospitals or medical professionals is often limited because passengers are far from land or flying at high altitude. In such situations, the availability of emergency injectable allergy medication, such as epinephrine, and trained crew members who can respond quickly can mean the difference between life and death.

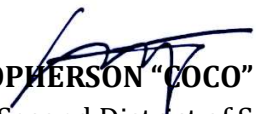
This bill seeks to improve passenger safety by requiring airlines and passenger ships to carry emergency injectable allergy medication in their onboard medical kits. It also requires crew members to receive proper training on how to recognize severe allergic reactions and administer the medication safely during emergencies. The Department of Health, together with the Department of Transportation, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, and the Maritime Industry Authority, will establish clear standards for the proper storage, handling, and use of these life-saving medicines.

This measure builds on the government's existing safety oversight in the aviation and maritime sectors. Agencies such as the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines and the Maritime Industry Authority already ensure compliance with passenger safety

regulations, while the Department of Health provides the medical standards needed to protect public health.

By requiring life-saving medication to be available on board and ensuring crew readiness, the bill aims to prevent avoidable deaths and improve emergency response during travel. By strengthening preparedness and protecting passengers in medical emergencies, this measure promotes safer air and sea travel for all Filipinos.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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REQUIRING AIR CARRIERS AND PASSENGER SHIP OPERATORS TO PROVIDE
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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 “*Onboard Emergency Allergy Care Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect the health, safety, and welfare of passengers in air and sea travel. Recognizing that severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, may be rapidly fatal without immediate treatment, the State shall ensure timely access to emergency injectable allergy medication on board aircraft and passenger ships, supported by crew training, proper storage and handling, and clear coordination with appropriate medical services.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- (a) ***Air Carrier*** refers to any person, partnership, corporation, or entity engaged in the business of air transportation of passengers operating within Philippine jurisdiction, whether domestic or international.

- (b) ***Passenger Ship*** refers to any inter-island or international vessel engaged in the carriage of passengers, operating within Philippine jurisdiction.
- (c) ***Emergency Injectable Allergy Medication*** refers to epinephrine (adrenaline) in a dosage form for emergency treatment of anaphylaxis, including auto-injectors or ampules/vials with appropriate administration devices, and such other DOH-approved emergency injectable medication for severe allergic reactions as may be specified in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR).
- (d) ***Medical Emergency Kit*** refers to the set of medical supplies and medicines required to be carried on board by applicable rules of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and other competent authorities, and as may be supplemented under this Act.
- (e) ***Trained Crew*** refers to crew members who have completed DOH-prescribed training on recognition of anaphylaxis, indications/contraindications, administration of emergency injectable allergy medication, and post-administration monitoring and referral procedures.

SECTION 4. Coverage. — This Act shall apply to:

- (a) All domestic and international air carriers operating flights within Philippine jurisdiction; and
- (b) All inter-island and international passenger ship operators operating voyages within Philippine jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. Mandatory Availability of Emergency Injectable Allergy Medication.

- (a) ***Stock Requirement.*** — Air carriers and passenger ship operators shall maintain on board, as part of the Medical Emergency Kit, a minimum stock of Emergency Injectable Allergy Medication.
- (b) ***Minimum Quantities and Configuration.*** — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with CAAP, the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and MARINA, shall prescribe minimum stock quantities, dosage configurations (adult and pediatric where applicable), and any acceptable alternatives, taking into account passenger capacity, voyage/flight duration, and route characteristics.

- (c) *Storage and Replacement.* — Operators shall ensure proper storage conditions, temperature requirements, security, accessibility during emergencies, and regular inspection and replacement prior to expiry, in accordance with DOH standards and the IRR.
- (d) *No Refusal to Carry.* — Operators shall not refuse carriage or impose discriminatory conditions solely on the basis that a passenger has a known severe allergy, without prejudice to existing safety regulations and reasonable accommodations.

SECTION 6. Training and Readiness Requirements. —

- (a) *Minimum Trained Crew.* — Every flight or voyage covered by this Act shall have at least two (2) Trained Crew members on duty.
- (b) *Training Standards.* — The DOH shall prescribe training content, duration, certification/recertification intervals, and competency standards, in coordination with CAAP and MARINA.
- (c) *Coordination with Medical Support.* — Operators shall adopt protocols for prompt coordination with ground/shore medical facilities, including procedures for diversion, emergency docking, or rapid disembarkation when medically indicated.

SECTION 7. Incident Documentation and Reporting. —

- (a) *Record of Use.* — Any administration of Emergency Injectable Allergy Medication shall be recorded in an incident report indicating the time of administration, circumstances, the crew member who administered, and post-event actions taken, subject to data privacy requirements.
- (b) *Reporting.* — Operators shall submit periodic anonymized reports to DOH and the appropriate regulator (CAAP for air carriers; MARINA for ships) for monitoring, compliance, and policy improvement, in the form and frequency to be prescribed in the IRR.

SECTION 8. Passenger Information and Public Awareness. — Operators shall inform passengers of the availability of emergency allergy treatment on board

through safety briefing materials, seatback/printed cards, or visual displays, and shall indicate the procedure for requesting assistance.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with CAAP, DOTr, and MARINA, and after consultation with stakeholders including carriers, maritime and aviation medical professionals, and passenger groups, shall promulgate the IRR necessary to implement this Act.

The IRR shall be germane to and in conformity with the standards and purposes of this Act and shall include, among others:

- (i) stock standards;
- (ii) acceptable formulations and administration devices;
- (iii) storage parameters;
- (iv) training/certification standards;
- (v) inspection and compliance auditing; and
- (vi) incident reporting templates.

SECTION 10. Compliance Monitoring. — CAAP and MARINA shall integrate compliance checks under this Act into their existing inspection and audit processes. The DOH shall provide technical standards and may conduct joint inspections as may be provided in the IRR.

SECTION 11. Administrative Penalties. — Without prejudice to existing regulatory powers and sanctions under applicable laws and rules, noncompliance with this Act or its IRR shall subject the operator to the following administrative penalties, to be imposed by the appropriate regulator:

- (a) *First Offense* — Fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) and issuance of a compliance order with a specified cure period;
- (b) *Second Offense* — Fine of not less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱300,000.00) and enhanced inspection and monitoring;
- (c) *Third and Subsequent Offenses* — Fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) and, when warranted by repeated willful noncompliance affecting passenger safety, suspension of the relevant permit or authority to operate, in accordance with due process and existing regulations.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. — All laws, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,