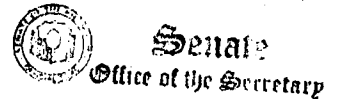
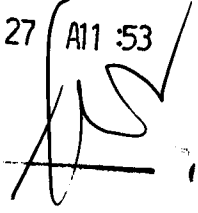


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



20 APR 27 (A11 :53

**SENATE**  
**Senate Bill No. 1451**

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

On March 2020, COVID-19 pandemic has been declared by the World Health Organization. The number of cases in the Philippines have also been increasing dramatically day by day and requires thorough and immediate medical action from the State.

The increasing cases overwhelmed both private and public hospitals in the country and their medical personnel are strained by the number of COVID-19 patients and PUIs in their facilities. The Department of Health also called for volunteer doctors and nurses to fight against the highly infectious disease. The lack of medical personnel in the midst of pandemic disease hinders the State's capacity to combat the disease immediately and effectively.

This bill seeks to uphold the 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.

This bill establishes a Medical Reserve Corps which shall be composed of all persons who have degrees in the field of medicine, nursing, medical technology, and other health-related fields but have yet to have their respective licenses to practice. The members of the Medical Reserve Corps may be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government and the local government units in their functions related to addressing the medical needs of the public in times of national emergencies.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is urgently sought.



**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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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*

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Medical Reserve Corps  
2 Act of 2020."

3

4 Sec. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State:

5

6 a. To institutionalize the vital role of medical and health-related personnel in  
7 nation-building, promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual,  
8 intellectual, and social well-being; to inculcate in them patriotism and  
9 nationalism; and to encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;  
10 and

11

12 b. To train, equip and organize medical and health-related personnel, within  
13 the current frameworks of national and territorial defense, law enforcement  
14 and peace and order and national disaster risk reduction and management,  
15 to prepare them for rapid mobilization at the soonest possible time in order  
16 to address national and/or local contingencies which may require manpower

1 beyond the capabilities of existing national government agencies or local  
2 government units.

3  
4 *Sec. 3. Medical Reserve Corps.* – There is hereby established a Medical Reserve  
5 Corps which shall be composed of all persons who have degrees in the field of  
6 medicine, nursing, medical technology, and other health-related fields but have yet to  
7 have their respective licenses to practice for reasons such as but not limited to not  
8 having taken and/or passed the licensure examinations in their respective professions.

9  
10 *Sec. 4. Medical Reserve Corps Mobilization.* – In times of national emergencies  
11 and other contingencies, the members of the Medical Reserve Corps may be called  
12 upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and  
13 instrumentalities, and the local government units in their functions related to  
14 addressing the medical needs of the public.

15  
16 The mobilization shall be initiated by the Secretary of Department of Health  
17 (DOH), in coordination with the Secretaries of the Department of National Defense  
18 (DND), the Department of Education (DepEd), and the Department of Interior and  
19 Local Government (DILG), or their duly authorized representatives with a rank of at  
20 least Undersecretary.

21  
22 From time to time as manpower and training resources may allow during the  
23 period of national emergencies and other contingencies, the Medical Reserve Corps  
24 may be called for retraining to maintain and enhance its level of competency and  
25 readiness for mobilization.

26  
27 *Sec. 5. Annual Reports.* – The DOH shall regularly publish an annual report  
28 containing a list of its accomplishments, status of its operations, number and  
29 demography of the Medical Reserve Corps, assessment of readiness for mobilization  
30 and the incidence and details of each mobilization for the year concerned. The annual  
31 report shall also include the results of the audit investigation on the spending of funds

1 appropriated, collected or advanced for the implementation of the provisions of this  
2 Act.

3  
4 *Sec. 6. Requests for Deployment.* – The Medical Reserve Corps may be called  
5 upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and  
6 instrumentalities, and the local government units in their functions related to  
7 addressing the medical needs of the public through requests for deployment by the  
8 heads of such national government agencies or local government units submitted to  
9 the DOH. The requests shall contain a justification for the deployment of the Corps  
10 and shall contain information as may be required by the DOH, including the nature of  
11 the national or local contingencies to be addressed, the purpose of the requested  
12 deployment, the number of personnel requested to be deployed and the period of  
13 deployment.

14  
15 *Sec. 7. Evaluation of the Requests for Deployment.* – The DOH shall evaluate  
16 the requests for deployment. When the number of personnel requested does not  
17 exceed one hundred and fifty (150) and the period of deployment does not exceed  
18 sixty (60) days, the DOH shall decide whether to approve or disapprove the request  
19 within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt thereof. When the number of personnel  
20 requested exceeds one hundred and fifty (150) or the period of deployment exceeds  
21 sixty (60) days, the DOH shall make a recommendation to the Office of the President  
22 (OP) within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the request. The OP shall decide  
23 whether to approve or disapprove the request within twenty-four (24) hours from  
24 receipt of the recommendation of the DOH.

25  
26 In case of the approval of the request for deployment, the DOH shall issue an  
27 Order of Deployment requiring the Corps, or a number thereof, to assist the national  
28 government, its agencies and instrumentalities and the local government units in their  
29 functions related to addressing the health-related needs of the public.

30  
31 *Sec. 8. Deployment in Case of a Declaration of a State of War, State of Lawless*  
32 *Violence or State of Calamity; Nationwide Mobilization.* – In case of a declaration of a

1 state of war, state of lawless violence or state of calamity, the DOH may *motu proprio*  
2 recommend the mobilization of the Corps to the President of the Philippines. The  
3 President of the Philippines, by himself, shall also have the power to order the  
4 mobilization of the Corps to respond to national or local contingencies related to  
5 external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order and/or disaster  
6 risk reduction management.

7  
8 **Sec. 9. *Mobilization Centers.*** – There shall be established in each province and  
9 city as many mobilization centers as needed according to the number and geographical  
10 distribution of the Corps, where they will report in case of deployment.

11  
12 In case of mobilization, the equipment of the Corps shall be supplied in close  
13 coordination with the DOH and other national agencies and offices, with the end in  
14 view of achieving rapid mobilization.

15  
16 **Sec. 10. *Expenses of Deployment.*** – Upon deployment, the national  
17 government agency or the local government unit to which the Corps is deployed shall  
18 shoulder the operational expenses of deployment.

19  
20 **Sec. 11. *Operationalization of Deployment.*** – The DOH shall promulgate the  
21 specific mechanisms by which deployment is efficiently implemented, including the  
22 organization of the Corps to be deployed, their territorial assignments, how  
23 deployment orders are communicated to each member of the Corps and to which  
24 mobilization center they will report.

25  
26 **Sec. 12. *Serial Numbers and Registry.*** – Upon completion of their respective  
27 degrees, the graduates shall be issued individual serial numbers, which will serve as  
28 their identification in case of deployment.

29  
30 The DOH shall maintain and update a registry/database containing the names  
31 of the members of the Corps, their serial numbers, address, contact details and such  
32 other information as the DOH may determine, in accordance with any applicable

1 privacy laws. For this purpose, all public and private colleges, universities and learning  
2 institutions are hereby mandated to annually transmit their records of the graduates  
3 covered under this Act to the DOH, in the form as may be determined by the DOH.

4  
5 All graduates covered under this Act are required to update their addresses and  
6 contact details on file with the DOH as often as necessary. Orders of deployment sent  
7 to the addresses and/or through the contact details on file with the DOH shall be  
8 sufficient notice for purposes of deployment.

9  
10 *Sec. 13. Termination of Deployment.* – Upon the expiration of the requested  
11 period of deployment, without an extension having been requested and approved by  
12 the DOH, the Corps shall be discharged of its duties. The deployment may also be  
13 terminated earlier upon a determination by the DOH, in consultation with the  
14 requesting national government agency or local government unit, that such  
15 deployment is no longer in accordance with the objectives and purposes of this Act.

16  
17 *Sec. 14. Effect on Employment.* – Deployment of employees in accordance with  
18 the provisions of this Act shall not be a ground for dismissal or diminution of any  
19 benefit enjoyed by such graduates prior to their deployment. The members of the  
20 Corps shall be entitled to their regular wage or salary during the period of their  
21 deployment.

22  
23 *Sec. 15. Medical Reserve Corps Fund.* – A Medical Reserve Corps Fund is hereby  
24 established exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and purposes of this  
25 Act. The Office of the President shall monitor and evaluate the activities and the  
26 balances of the Fund.

27  
28 *Sec. 16. School Fees.* – Public colleges, universities and similar learning  
29 institutions covered by Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the Universal  
30 Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, shall not collect any fee from the members  
31 of the Medical Reserve Corps in addition to the normal fees and charges pertinent to  
32 their education and training in said colleges, universities and other similar institutions.

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**Sec. 17. Appropriations.** – The Medical Reserve Corps Fund shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Sec. 18. Audit of Funds.** – Audit of any and all funds used through the implementation of this Act shall be in accordance with the audit jurisdiction of the Commission on Audit, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the Department of Health, under existing laws and regulations.

**Sec. 19. 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; and
3. Third and Subsequent Offenses: Six (6) months imprisonment and four hundred and eighty (480) hours of community service.

**Sec. 20. Disciplinary and Corrective Proceedings.** – Administrative offenses committed by persons involved in or in relation to the implementation of this Act, shall be subject to administrative penalties in accordance with the applicable civil service rules or the rules and regulations of the Professional Regulation Commission, as the case may be.

**Sec. 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – The DOH shall be tasked to formulate and approve the necessary rules and regulations to implement the



1 objectives and purposes of this Act within thirty (30) days from its effectivity. The rules  
2 and regulations shall include provisions on the structure and organization of the Corps,  
3 the specific mechanisms for the efficient mobilization and deployment of the Corps,  
4 and such other matters as the DOH may deem necessary or essential to fully  
5 implement the objectives and purposes of this Act.

6

7         *Sec. 22. Repealing Clause.* All laws, orders, rules regulations and other  
8 issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,  
9 amended or modified accordingly.

10

11         *Sec. 23. Separability Clause.* – Any provision of this Act declared  
12 unconstitutional shall not affect the validity of the other provisions thereof.

13

14         *Sec. 24. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
15 publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

*Approved,*