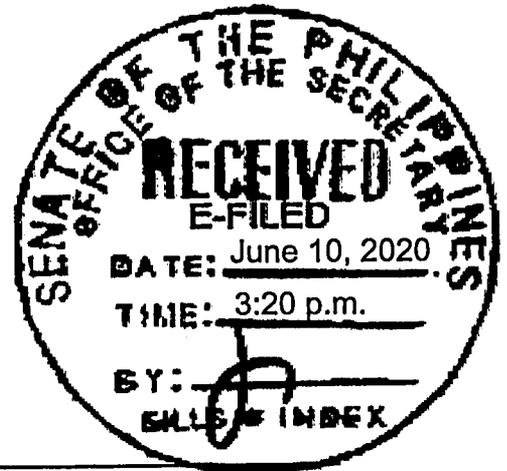


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



SENATE  
S.B. No. 1592

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT  
STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO  
PANDEMIC, EPIDEMIC, AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES,  
CREATING A MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

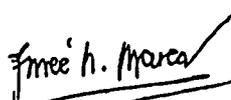
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "*The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people.*"

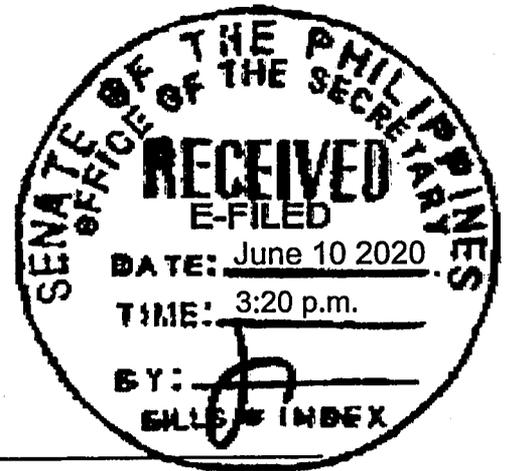
Over the years, various public health emergencies such as outbreaks and pandemics have claimed lives. A pandemic puts the entire world at risk of a markedly increased occurrence of severe morbidity and mortality. Further, simultaneous occurrence of the pandemic means that supply chains for essential products like life-saving medications and essential medical supplies will be quickly threatened causing further panic and fear to the public.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared a worldwide pandemic, on 11 March 2020, on the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus first reported in Wuhan, China. Already, this crisis has caused 64,973 deaths and over 1,205,801 cases worldwide. In the Philippines to date, 152 deaths and 3,246 cases have been reported, which triggered the President's urgent call for community quarantines and a Metro Manila "*lockdown*", quickly expanded to a "*nationwide lockdown*".

This bill aims to strengthen the national preparedness and response of the government to public health emergencies and thus creating a medical reserve corps therefor to reduce its adverse health, economic, and social impact to the Filipino people.

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)  
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Medical Reserve*  
2 *Corps Act.*”

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall, at all times, give paramount  
4 importance to the health of its citizens whether in the country or overseas and it shall  
5 likewise endeavor to efficiently and immediately address all potential and actual public  
6 health emergencies for the promotion of the general welfare of the people.

7           Sec. 3. *Medical Reserve Corps.* – A medical reserve corps shall be created  
8 composed of volunteer health care providers who provides health care services  
9 including, but not limited to, hospitals, medical clinics and offices, special care  
10 facilities, medical laboratories, physicians, pharmacists, dentists, physician assistants,  
11 nurse practitioners, registered and other nurses, and paramedics who provide  
12 emergency medical care, emergency medical or laboratory technicians, and  
13 ambulance and emergency medical workers. The Corps shall be called into duty during  
14 pandemic, epidemic, and other public health emergencies, as may be deemed  
15 necessary by the government.

16           Sec. 4. *Medical Reserve Corp Database and Plan.* – The Department of Health  
17 (DOH), in coordination with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the

1 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall establish a database of information of  
2 all individuals under the medical reserve corps which shall be updated quarterly.

3 The DOH shall also prepare a plan which shall provide for integrated policy  
4 coordination and strategic direction with respect to all matters related to national and  
5 local public health and medical preparedness and execution and deployment of  
6 national and local response before, during, and after pandemics, epidemics, and other  
7 public health emergencies.

8 *Sec. 5. Local Government Unit Coordination.* – The Local Government Units  
9 (LGUs) shall include the setting up or modification of health care facilities and, in  
10 coordination with the DOH, designate areas for quarantine or isolation in preparation  
11 for any pandemic, epidemic, or other public health emergency.

12 *Sec. 6. Recruitment, Training, and Compensation.* – The DOH, in coordination  
13 with the PRC and CHED, shall issue guidelines on the recruitment, training, and  
14 compensation for health care providers, under the Medical Reserve Corps Database,  
15 who choose to work and gain experience in public hospitals.

16 *Sec. 7. Appropriation.* – An initial amount of two hundred million pesos (Php  
17 200,000,000.00) shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) for  
18 the implementation of this Act. Thereafter, the appropriation necessary shall be  
19 determined by the DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and  
20 Management (DBM).

21 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act,  
22 the DOH, in coordination with the PRC and CHED, shall immediately convene and issue  
23 the implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the approval of  
24 this Act.

25 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or  
26 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
27 repealed or modified accordingly.

28 *Sec. 10. Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
29 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
30 remain in force and effect.

1           **Sec. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
2 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of  
3 general circulation in the Philippines.

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5           **Approved,**