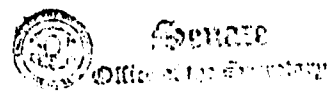


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

S. No. 1909

20 NOV 10 P1 56

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
EXTENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF SELECTED APPROPRIATIONS IN THE
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2020 AND THE BAYANIHAN TO
RECOVER AS ONE ACT UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERS 11465 AND 11494,
RESPECTIVELY, AS WELL AS THE CORRESPONDING ALLOTMENTS
INTENDED AS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY INTERVENTIONS FOR THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11494 otherwise known as *Bayanihan to Recover as One Act* or what is commonly referred to as Bayanihan II was passed on September 2020 to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The law directs the government to aggressively pursue measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 as well as provide fiscal stimulus as the economy starts to recover.

Ultimately, the Bayanihan II seeks to save lives and protect jobs as well as strengthen the resilience of our socioeconomic institutions in dealing with the health and economic crisis.

However, the report of the Executive Department to Congress on the status of implementation of Bayanihan II as of November 3, 2020, showed disappointing delays in the release of funds for the delivery of programs and projects meant to provide effective response and recovery interventions for COVID-19. This delay is unexpected because the Bayanihan II was certified as an urgent measure by the President.

As of October 29, 2020, only the amount of Php 76 billion out of the total Php 140 billion appropriations under R.A. No. 11494 was released by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to the various implementing agencies. This leaves a balance of Php 64 Billion or about 46 percent still to be released before the appropriation expires on December 19, 2020. According to the DBM, the releases were based on the budget requests submitted by the agency. It appears that the agency's absorptive capacity cannot cope with the urgency of stopping the spread of the virus and instituting measures to avert the economic downturn as a result of the lockdowns.

While the economy has started to open up and the COVID-19 statistics show declining cases, the crisis is far from over. The average daily COVID-19 cases have been maintained at the 2,000 level but there should be no slackening of the observance of health protocols as some areas have seen spikes in cases even as new cases have registered in otherwise zero-case localities. Meanwhile, unemployment is highest in so many years. The GDP for 2020 is projected to register significant negative growth. The stock market is still in the red. Imports and exports are down.

Hence, the government needs to extend the validity of appropriations and allotments for Bayanihan II in order to continue the forward momentum of our battle against the COVID-19 pandemic and avert the collapse of the economy.

This bill seeks to extend until the next adjournment of the Eighteenth Congress on March 27, 2021, the availability of appropriations and allotments pertaining to the enumerated programs, projects and activities under Section 10 of the Bayanihan II law, R.A. No. 11494, including those for health intervention, social amelioration, employment protection, support to impacted business and sectors, and investments for the new normal, among others. This covers funds intended for national government agencies, local government units, and government financial institutions.

The extension of the validity of selected appropriations under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) 2020 pertains only to appropriations for programs, activities and projects that have been reprogrammed, reallocated and realigned to programs, activities and projects for COVID-19 mitigation.

The extension of validity shall only apply to appropriations and allotments intended for COVID-19 response under R.A. No. 11494 and does not include the extension of the effectivity of other interventions with no direct budgetary implications, unless its longer validity has been indicated in the Bayanihan II law.

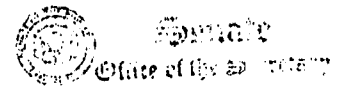
The extensions being sought in this bill will certainly help accelerate the socioeconomic recovery of our nation.

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



RALPH G. RECTO

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SENATE

S. No. 1909

20 NOV 10 P1:56

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
EXTENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF SELECTED APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2020 AND THE BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT UNDER REPUBLIC ACTS 11465 AND 11494, RESPECTIVELY, AS WELL AS THE CORRESPONDING ALLOTMENTS INTENDED AS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY INTERVENTIONS FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. *Extension of the Availability of Appropriations.* – The availability of
2 appropriations provided under the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2020 and the
3 Bayanihan to Recover as One Act pursuant to Republic Act Numbers (R.A. Nos.) 11465
4 and 11494 respectively, intended for the response and recovery interventions for the
5 COVID-19 pandemic, as enumerated in Section 10 of R.A. No. 11494, is extended until
6 the next adjournment of the Eighteenth (18th) Congress on March 27, 2021: *Provided,*
7 That the availability of appropriations in the GAA 2020 that were reprogrammed,
8 reallocated or realigned from declared savings and utilized for programs and projects
9 for COVID-19 interventions, including the automatic appropriations of new programs,
10 projects and activity pursuant to Section 4 (rr) of R.A. No. 11494, are also hereby
11 extended for the same period: *Provided, further,* That the use of such appropriations
12 shall continue to be governed by the provisions of Section 4 of R.A. No. 11494.

13 Sec. 2. *Extension for Obligations of Allotment.* – The allotments released that
14 are covered by appropriations specified in Section 1 of this Act, shall be valid for
15 obligations until March 27, 2021: *Provided,* That allotments issued which are covered

1 by appropriations with fund sources other than the GAA as enumerated in Section 11
2 of R.A. No. 11494, is hereby extended until March 27, 2021.

3 *Sec. 3. Reissuance of Allotment.* –The Department of Budget and Management
4 (DBM) shall issue a new Advice of Allotment indicating the extended validity in
5 accordance with Section 2 of this Act.

6 *Sec. 4. Applicability to Local Government Units (LGUs) and Government*
7 *Financial Institutions (GFIs).* –The fund releases to the LGUs, and GFIs for programs,
8 projects and activities enumerated in Section 10 of R.A. No. 11494 is extended until
9 March 27, 2021: *Provided,* That said funds shall be available for obligations and
10 disbursements until the intended purpose of the allotment has been completed.

11 *Sec. 5. Allotment Releases from the Standby Fund.* – Release of Allotment
12 covered by the Standby Fund as provided in Section 11 of R.A. No. 11494 shall be
13 extended up to December 31, 2020, subject to the fulfillment of the conditionalities
14 stipulated under the same section of R.A. No. 11494: *Provided,* That said allotments
15 shall be available for obligations until March 27, 2021.

16 *Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Immediately after the effectivity
17 of this Act, the Department of Budget and Management in consultation with
18 implementing agencies concerned shall formulate the guidelines, rules and regulations
19 to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

20 *Sec. 7. Repealing Clause.* – Any provision of R.A. Nos. 11465 and 11494 or any
21 other law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule
22 or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, amended
23 or modified accordingly.

24 *Sec. 8. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication
25 in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette.*

Approved,