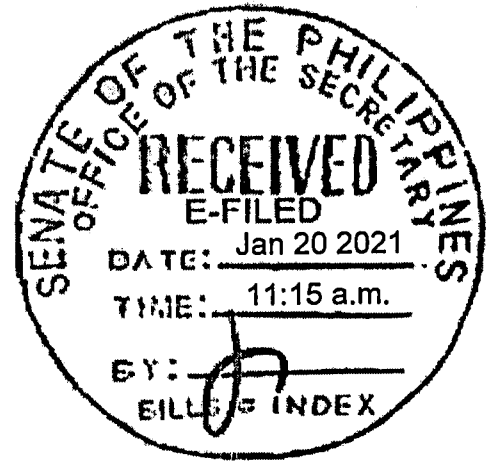


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



**SENATE**  
**S. No. 1999**

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Introduced by **SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO**

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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING A VACCINE PASSPORT PROGRAM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Recognizing COVID-19's highly contagious nature and deadly consequences, governments around the world were forced to limit the movement of millions of people, restricting travel, closing shops, restaurants, and other businesses, and banning large gatherings, among others. Towards the last quarter of 2020, a number of vaccines for COVID-19 have been developed and approved for emergency use, and there continues to be more that are accredited globally. The COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases - National Task Force (IATF-NTF) stated that, in the Philippines, there will be 148 million doses of vaccines to be rolled out this year.<sup>1</sup>

Having a Vaccine Passport Program can help facilitate the country's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. This bill seeks to create and implement such a program which shall provide an individual's record of COVID-19 vaccinations. It will address issues on identifying who has been vaccinated, what vaccination was given, how many doses have been administered, and other related matters. It shall further provide the government with a means to monitor distribution of the vaccines, including post-market surveillance. Having a Vaccine Passport is proof that an individual has received

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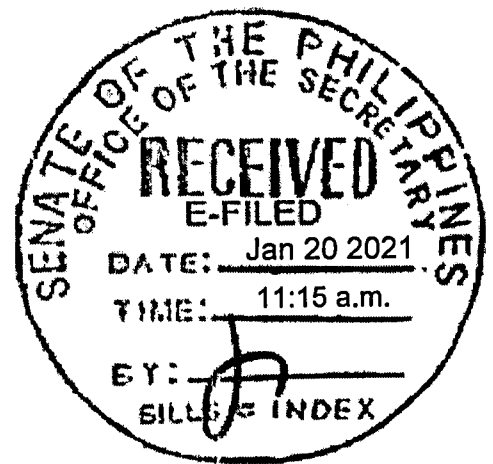
<sup>1</sup> Presentation of Secretary Carlito Galvez during the Senate Committee of the Whole hearing, 11 January 2021.

the vaccines, and may allow him benefits or exemptions from COVID-19 restrictions as may be provided by the IATF-NTF.

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

*Pia S. Cayetano*  
PIA S. CAYETANO

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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**SENATE**  
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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING A VACCINE PASSPORT PROGRAM, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Vaccine Passport*  
2 *Program Act*".

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Constitution mandates that the State shall  
4 protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness  
5 among them.

6           The State recognizes the importance of preventive healthcare and the need to  
7 take proactive measures in the fight against diseases, particularly COVID-19. It  
8 acknowledges that a comprehensive, mandatory and sustainable immunization  
9 program for vaccine-preventable diseases is indispensable to achieve the objectives  
10 of universal healthcare and the country's commitments to the Sustainable  
11 Development Goals (SDGs), particularly on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). A  
12 Vaccine Passport Program can help facilitate COVID-19 immunization and future  
13 immunization programs by allowing the State to track who has been vaccinated and  
14 where priority vaccinations should take place. It also serves as a means to monitor  
15 the vaccines' effects and the effectivity of immunization programs. Towards this end,  
16 the State shall adopt and implement a Vaccine Passport Program to facilitate its  
17 COVID-19 and future immunization programs against vaccine-preventable diseases.

1           **Sec. 3. Vaccine Passport Program.** – Subject to the provisions of Republic Act  
2 No. 10173 or the “Data Privacy Act of 2012”, the COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force  
3 for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) shall issue a Vaccine  
4 Passport to all Filipinos, which shall be a record of the COVID-19 vaccinations received  
5 by an individual. The Vaccine Passport shall take into account internationally-  
6 recognized standards, and shall contain the following:

- 7           a) Manufacturer, brand name, and batch number or other identifier of the  
8           COVID-19 vaccine;
- 9           b) Date of vaccination;
- 10          c) Name of the hospital, health center, or health facility where the vaccine  
11          was received; and
- 12          d) Name, signature, and license number of the duly licensed physician,  
13          nurse or other health worker administering the vaccine.

14           The Vaccine Passport Program shall primarily be digital, but shall remain  
15 accessible through other means such as printed passports. The IATF, through the  
16 Department of Information and Communications Technology, shall develop the digital  
17 systems and applications that will meet the objectives of the Program while  
18 maintaining quality, safety, ease of use, and accessibility for all Filipinos.

19           **Sec. 4. Benefits of Receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine.** – Individuals vaccinated  
20 against COVID-19 may be granted certain benefits or exemptions, subject to  
21 guidelines issued by the IATF, which shall be clearly stated in the individual’s Vaccine  
22 Passport, such as but not limited to:

- 23           a) International travel, as may be allowed in foreign jurisdictions;
- 24           b) Non-essential domestic travel;
- 25           c) Local checkpoint and quarantine exemptions; and
- 26           d) Access to business establishments allowed to operate based on IATF  
27           guidelines.

28           Individuals vaccinated against COVID-19 as indicated in the Vaccine Passport  
29 shall not be considered immune from COVID-19, unless otherwise declared by the  
30 DOH based on reliable scientific evidence and consensus.

31           **Sec. 5. Adoption of the Vaccine Passport Program for Other Immunization**  
32 **Programs.** – The Department of Health (DOH) shall adopt the Vaccine Passport

1 Program to facilitate other immunization programs, including but not limited to  
2 mandatory basic immunization as provided by Republic Act No. 10152 or the  
3 "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011", subject to  
4 guidelines to be issued by the DOH.

5       **Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within 30 days from the  
6 effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall promulgate and issue the necessary guidelines  
7 for the effective implementation of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations  
8 issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect upon its publication in the Official  
9 Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

10       **Sec. 7. *Appropriations.*** – The funds necessary for the implementation of this  
11 Act shall be sourced from reallocations of the 2019 and 2020 General Appropriations  
12 Act for the COVID-19 response. Appropriations for the succeeding years shall be  
13 included in the annual appropriations of the DOH under the General Appropriations  
14 Act.

15       **Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
16 unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be  
17 affected thereby.

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

21       **Sec. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
22 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*