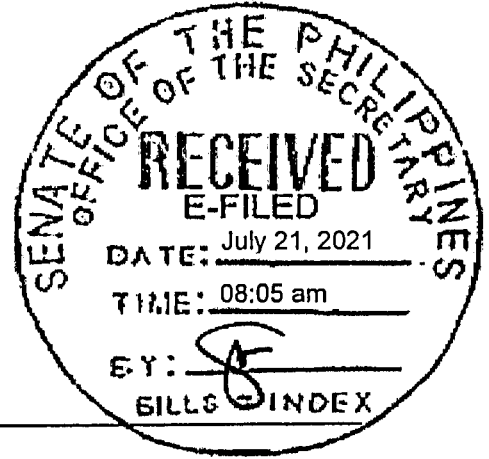


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )

SENATE  
P.S. Res. No. 780



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**RESOLUTION**

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY, IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A CENTRALIZED DATABASE OF COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR AN EFFICIENT VERIFICATION OF VACCINATION CARDS AS PROOF OF INOCULATION TO PREVENT FALSIFICATION AND IN LIGHT OF THE RELAXATION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS**

1 WHEREAS, Section 12 of Republic Act No. 11525 provides for the issuance of a  
2 digital or printed vaccination card by the Department of Health (DOH) to all persons  
3 vaccinated against COVID-19. Said mandate may be delegated to the Local  
4 Government Units (LGUs) following the guidelines of DOH<sup>1</sup>;

5 WHEREAS, in light of this, the same section also mandates the DOH to maintain  
6 a central database of vaccinations. Last 22 February 2021, during the Senate plenary  
7 debate of the said measure, Senator Pia Cayetano inserted this as an amendment and  
8 emphasized the need for such a database as may be used in the future and for  
9 international purposes<sup>2</sup>;

10 WHEREAS, Resolution No. 124-B, s. 2021 issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force  
11 for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) last July 2, 2021<sup>3</sup>  
12 underscored the importance of having a database of vaccinated individuals for  
13 mobility;

<sup>1</sup> Republic Act. No. 1125. <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2021/02feb/20210226-RA-11525-RRD.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> IATF Resolution No. 124-B. <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2021/07jul/20210702-IATF-RESO-124B-RRD.pdf>

1 WHEREAS, said resolution states that "...the presentation of a COVID-19  
2 domestic vaccination card duly issued by a legitimate vaccinating establishment, or  
3 certificate of quarantine completion showing the holder's vaccination status as may be  
4 issued by the Bureau of Quarantine, whichever is applicable, shall be sufficient  
5 alternatives to any testing requirement (before travel or upon arrival) which the local  
6 government unit of destination may require...";

7 WHEREAS, several LGUs questioned this new protocol, stating how difficult it  
8 would be to enforce this if the vaccination cards cannot be verified due to the absence  
9 of a central database<sup>4</sup>;

10 WHEREAS, the absence of said database is also worsened by the fact that LGU-  
11 issued vaccination cards do not have a uniform design. Most of them are printed in  
12 cardboard with space for an ID picture, some have QR codes; but other LGUs in the  
13 provinces are using bond paper with no space for an ID picture and is only reproduced  
14 by photocopying<sup>5</sup>;

15 WHEREAS, while it is worth noting that several LGUs like Makati, Manila and  
16 Quezon City have initiated the improvement of their vaccination cards through  
17 incorporating security seals, unique QR codes, hologram stickers, and  
18 countersignatures<sup>6</sup>, most vaccination cards do not have these safety features and can  
19 easily be forged, faked or replicated<sup>7</sup>;

20 WHEREAS, without proper verification, these vaccination cards may be faked  
21 and above all, this will discredit the vaccination program of the government and risks  
22 compromising the health of a locality by allowing entry of possibly infected individuals;

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<sup>4</sup> Kabagani, L. (9 July 2021). *Unified vax card will make verification easier: mayor.*  
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146559>

<sup>5</sup> Ong, G. & Crisostomo, S. (6 July 2021). *Cops on lookout for fake vaccination cards.*  
<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/07/06/2110472/cops-lookout-fake-vaccination-cards>

<sup>6</sup> Cabalaza, D., Ramos, M. & Valenzuela, N. (10 July 2021). *Weak signal a problem for digital COVID-19 vax certificates.* <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1457968/weak-signal-a-problem-for-digital-covid-19-vax-certificates#ixzz70W1w0DPb>

<sup>7</sup> Santos, J. (9 July 2021). *Local execs seek unified database of vaccinated individuals.*  
<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/794714/local-execs-seek-unified-database-of-vaccinated-individuals/story/>

1 WHEREAS, the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) believes that  
2 the simplest and most efficient strategy to deter faking of vaccination cards is to have  
3 a readily accessible unified database of individuals vaccinated against COVID-19<sup>8</sup>;

4 WHEREAS, Pasay Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano further proposed the use of Quick  
5 Response (QR) code for the database, as this will make tracing and verification easier  
6 and faster<sup>9</sup>;

7 WHEREAS, the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) also proposes that  
8 LGUs be given access to the database, once available, to give them the ability to cross-  
9 check vaccine records<sup>10</sup>;

10 WHEREAS, due to the backlash, on 8 July 2021, the IATF-EID issued Resolution  
11 No. 125, s. 2021<sup>11</sup> amending, among others, paragraph D on the allowed movement  
12 of fully vaccinated individuals, clarifying that the preceding policy on the presentation  
13 of vaccination card as travel pass is upon the discretion of the LGU who may still  
14 require a negative RT-PCR test result;

15 WHEREAS, the need to verify the vaccination cards is not only for economic  
16 mobility but more so, to make sure that there is safe movement of people until the  
17 government has achieved its goals for the vaccination program and the country has  
18 achieved herd immunity;

19 WHEREAS, the availability of centralized database of COVID-19 vaccinations will  
20 make verification of vaccination cards more efficient, discourage the faking of said  
21 document, and sustain the progress that the government has made in the vaccination  
22 program;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved,  
24 to urge the Department of Health and the Department of Information and  
25 Communication Technology, in coordination with Local Government Units, to develop  
26 and maintain a centralized database of COVID-19 vaccinations for an efficient

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<sup>8</sup> De Leon, D. (9 July 2021). *Unified database for jabbed Filipinos sought as domestic travel curbs ease*. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/unified-database-jabbed-covid-19-filipinos-sought-domestic-travel-curbs-ease>

<sup>9</sup> Kabagani, L. (9 July 2021). *Unified vax card will make verification easier: mayor*. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1146559>

<sup>10</sup> Cinco, M. (9 July 2021). *Governors' group: Give LGUs link to vax records*.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1457529/governors-group-give-igus-link-to-vax-records#ixzz70W3cJdZM>  
<sup>11</sup> IATF Resolution No. 125. <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2021/07jul/20210708-IATF-Resolution-125-RRD.pdf>

- 1 verification of vaccination cards as proof of inoculation to prevent falsification and in
- 2 light of the relaxation of travel restrictions for fully vaccinated individuals.

*Adopted,*

*Grace Poe*  
**GRACE POE**