

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

**SENATE
S. No. 892**

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Introduced by SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

**AN ACT
CREATING THE MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL RESERVE CORPS**

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."

Equally important, Article II Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service."

There are currently 27,625¹ active cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines. Meanwhile the country has likewise logged 65,190 dengue cases from January 1 to July 2 of this year which is 83% higher than the figures in the same period in the year 2021.² These increasing cases of COVID-19 and dengue requires continued, thorough and immediate medical action. These cases have a potential to overwhelm both private and public hospitals in the country.

Further, in the month of October 2019, Mindanao was struck by a series of strong earthquakes that displaced thousands of families and affected millions of

¹ <https://www.covid19.gov.ph/> as of 26 July 2022.

² <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1179267>

Filipinos. The most affected areas near the epicenters of the tremors, including the Municipalities of Tulum and Makilala in the Province of Cotabato, suffered severely in terms of health and safety of its constituents and damage to their properties and infrastructures which highlighted the need for structural engineers and psychological trauma specialists. This is not a rare occurrence for the country. Being geographically situated in the "Pacific Ring of Fire" makes us vulnerable to these kinds of occurrences and numerous visits of tropical storms and other natural calamities.

Hence, the above circumstances show that there is a need to respond to these challenges and propose a long-term strategy that will benefit the country during pandemics, endemics, state of war, state of lawless violence or state of calamity and other similar circumstances.

To affirm this constitutional mandate and affirm patriotism as a cornerstone of community service, this bill seeks to provide the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the power to require professionals, such as structural engineers and licensed medical personnel, to render personal civil service in times of disasters, calamities, endemics, pandemic, and war. With this bill, it is hoped that affected Filipinos are immediately provided with the necessary assistance to alleviate their suffering. Finally, this bill also aims to strengthen the national preparedness and response of the government to public health emergencies and thus creating a medical and technical reserve corps to reduce its adverse health, economic, and social impact on the Filipino people.

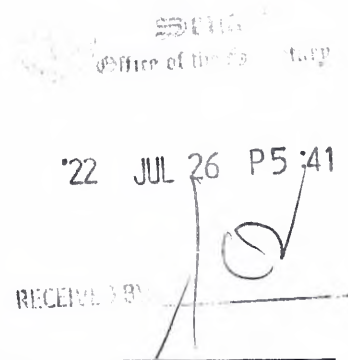
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

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Introduced by SENATOR FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

AN ACT
CREATING THE MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL RESERVE CORPS

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 and
2 Technical Reserve Corps Act of 2022."

3 **Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It shall be the policy of the State to:

- 4 a. Prioritize the health of its citizens whether in the country or overseas and it
5 shall likewise endeavor to efficiently and immediately address all potential
6 and actual public health emergencies for the promotion of the general
7 welfare of the people;
- 8 b. Adopt a post-disaster rehabilitation approach that is holistic,
9 comprehensive, integrated, and proactive in lessening the socioeconomic
10 and environmental impacts of disasters, natural or man-made, and promote
11 the involvement and participation of all sectors and all stakeholders
12 concerned, at all levels, especially the local community;
- 13 c. Actively engage the people in post-disaster rehabilitation and humanitarian
14 efforts; and
- 15 d. Promote the culture of "Bayanihan Spirit" during periods of calamities.

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

8 **Sec. 4. *Mandatory Service of Members of the Medical and Technical***
9 ***Reserve Corps.*** - The members of the Medical and Technical Reserve Corps may be
10 called upon by the Department of Health to render mandatory civil service during
11 times of disease outbreak, state of war, state of lawless violence or state of calamity.

12 From time to time as manpower and training resources may allow during the
13 period of national emergencies and other contingencies, the Medical and Technical
14 Reserve Corps may be called for retraining to maintain and enhance its level of
15 competency and readiness for mobilization.

16 The President of the Philippines, by himself, may also call on the mobilization
17 of the Medical and Technical Reserve Corps to respond to national or local
18 contingencies related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace
19 and order and/or disaster risk reduction management.

20 **Sec. 5. *Implementing Unit.*** – The Department of Health (DOH) in
21 coordination with the Department of National Defense (DND), Professional Regulation
22 Commission (PRC), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Department of
23 Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall compose the implementing unit of this
24 Act.

25 **Sec. 6. *Mobilization Centers.*** - There shall be established in each province
26 and city as many mobilization centers as needed according to the number and
27 geographical distribution of the Corps, where they will report in case of deployment.

1 In case of mobilization, the equipment of the Corps shall be supplied by the
2 DOH and other national agencies and offices, with the end in view of achieving rapid
3 mobilization of the Corps, where they will report in case of deployment.

4 **Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DOH in consultation
5 with DND, PRC, CHED, and the DILG shall promulgate the rules and regulations to
6 implement this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

7 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid,
8 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
9 remain valid and subsisting.

10 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All law, presidential decree or issuance,
11 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary
12 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or
13 amended accordingly.

14 **Sec 10. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
15 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,