

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



'22 OCT 27 P 3:54

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 1423

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO
DISASTERS, PANDEMIC AND 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." In recent years, various public health emergencies, outbreaks and pandemics have placed the entire world at risk of an increased occurrence of severe morbidity and mortality. The simultaneous occurrences of these events means that supply chains for essential products like life saving medications and essential medical supplies are quickly threatened causing more fear to the public.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the weaknesses of our healthcare system, including the limited and overburdened health workers. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the country's doctor-population ratio is below the recommended ratio of ten (10) doctors per ten thousand (10,000) persons. Thus, the necessity to increase the available human resources for health.

This bill aims to strengthen the national preparedness and response of the government to public health emergencies and thus creating a Medical Reserve Corps to reduce its adverse health, economic, and social impact on the Filipino people.

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


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 OCT 27 P 3:54

SENATE

S. No. 1423

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Medical Reserve Corps*
2 *for the New Normal 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
5 shall likewise endeavor to efficiently and immediately address all potential and actual
6 public 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. It
8 will be composed of volunteer health care providers - physicians, pharmacists,
9 dentists, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, paramedics who provide
10 emergency medical care, emergency medical or laboratory technicians, and
11 ambulance and emergency medical workers - who provides healthcare care services
12 including, but not limited to, hospitals, medical clinics and offices, special care facilities
13 and medical laboratories. The Corps shall be called into duty during disaster, pandemic
14 and other public health emergencies, as may be deemed necessary by the
15 government.

1 *Sec. 4. Medical Reserve Corp Database and Plan.* - The Department of Health
2 (DOH), in coordination with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the
3 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and in consultation with the Accredited and
4 Integrated Professional Organization in the medical and allied health professions shall
5 establish a database of information of all individuals under the medical reserve corps,
6 which shall be updated twice a year. The DOH shall also prepare a plan, which shall
7 provide for comprehensive policy coordination and strategic direction, with respect to
8 all matters related to national and local public health and medical preparedness and
9 execution, and deployment of national and local response before, during, and after
10 pandemics and other public health emergencies.

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

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

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

24 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Upon the effectivity of this
25 Act, the DOH, in coordination with the PRC, DILG, and CHED, shall immediately
26 convene and issue the IRR within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act.

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

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

1 Sec. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,