



20 APR 27 AIO :44

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 1442**

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Introduced by Senator **PIA S. CAYETANO**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF ADDITIONAL**  
**QUARANTINE STATIONS, GROUNDS AND ANCHORAGES IN ALL STRATEGIC**  
**AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the need for proper health infrastructure to manage and prevent the spread of diseases. Quarantine facilities serve as a control measure to curb the spread of contagious diseases like the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV), and COVID-19. To quarantine means the separation of people who have been exposed to an illness, usually an infection, but are not ill or have not yet shown any sign of the illness. The movements and interaction of these people are restricted during the quarantine period which is equivalent to the incubation period of the disease. Those who get ill during the quarantine period are immediately isolated.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the country had eighteen (18) provincial quarantine stations.<sup>2</sup> This number is woefully inadequate to cover the many points of entry in the country. The establishment of quarantine facilities to house COVID-19 patients may help boost this number, but they need to be strategically located and have the necessary equipment that is not only specific to COVID-19.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 6, Implementing Rules and Regulations of Quarantine Act of 2004 (Republic Act No. 9271).

<sup>2</sup> Provincial Quarantine Stations. (n.d.). Retrieved April 25, 2020, from <https://quarantine.doh.gov.ph/bureau-quarantine-stations/>.

Upon the instructions of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the government mobilized a team to put up 2,780 temporary quarantine facilities across the country as of 17 April 2020, in anticipation of more than 167,000 patients.<sup>3</sup> However, these are temporary in nature, thus the need for this measure.

Under Section 6 of the Quarantine Act of 2004, the Director of the Bureau of Quarantine has the authority to establish additional quarantine stations, grounds and anchorages if, in his judgment, these are necessary to prevent the introduction of diseases of international concern to the country. However, this authority may be limited due to the Bureau of Quarantine's budgetary constraints.

Through the initiative of Representative Angelina "Helen" Tan, M.D. with a similar bill in the House of Representatives, this measure seeks to preempt the spread of communicable diseases that pose a significant threat to public health by establishing additional quarantine facilities under the Department of Health.

In view thereof, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**PIA S. CAYETANO**

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<sup>3</sup> News, ABS-CBN. (2020, April 17). PH now has 2,780 quarantine facilities for suspected, 'mild' cases of COVID-19. Retrieved April 26, 2020, from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/17/20/ph-now-has-2780-quarantine-facilities-for-suspected-mild-cases-of-covid-19>.

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**THEREFOR**

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

1           Section 1. *Establishment of Additional Quarantine Stations, Grounds and*  
2 *Anchorage.* – There shall be established pursuant to Section 6 of Republic Act No. 9271,  
3 otherwise known as the “*Quarantine Act of 2004*”, additional quarantine stations, grounds  
4 and anchorages in all strategic areas throughout the country.

5           Sec. 2. *Additional Quarantine Stations, Grounds and Anchorages under the*  
6 *Department of Health.* – The Secretary of Health shall include in the Department’s  
7 programs the establishment of additional quarantine stations, grounds and anchorages,  
8 including the expansion of existing quarantine facilities.

9           Sec. 3. *Coordination Measures.* – The Secretary of Health shall establish adequate,  
10 effective, responsive and enabling mechanisms and support systems that shall strengthen  
11 the coordination of relevant agencies of government and the private sector to ensure the  
12 safety of persons under investigation, health workers, and the community.

13           Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Health, in  
14 consultation with appropriate government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules  
15 and regulations for the implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its  
16 effectivity.

1            *Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations,  
2 other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
3 repealed or modified accordingly.

4            *Sec. 6. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
5 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*