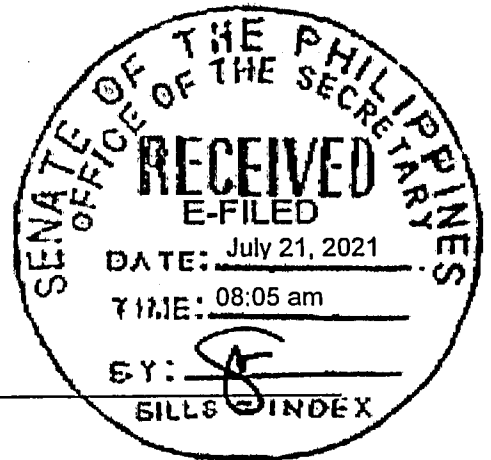


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 2321



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM
ACT TO ENSURE THE SAFE MOBILITY OF VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS,
LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, TO ENCOURAGE VACCINE CONFIDENCE,
AND ULTIMATELY, TO SPUR ECONOMIC GROWTH, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11525, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

The significance of the COVID-19 vaccine is two-fold. First is to inoculate our people and protect them from the virus. Second is to build back the confidence of people and make them feel safe about moving around. The profound effect of a healthy citizenry and a safe environment is economic growth which was hampered due to the pandemic.

In an effort to institutionalize the government's strategy in carrying out the country's vaccination program, Republic Act No. 11525 or the COVID-19 Vaccination Program Act was passed into law last 26 February 2021. It outlines the vaccine sourcing, procurement and inoculation procedures, as well as compensation for any serious adverse effects through a National Vaccine Indemnity Fund. Among others, the law also provides for the issuance of a free vaccine card which indicates information about the vaccine administered to the card holder¹.

However, due to the purely informative nature of the vaccine card as provided for in the law, it remains an insufficient proof of inoculation to allow individuals to travel, especially the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who need to leave the country for employment². Paragraph B of IATF Resolution No. 120, series of 2021 states that a fully vaccinated individual must have his/her vaccination card and a certificated issued by the Department of Information and Communications Technology or the City Health Officer of the local government unit which administered the last dose necessary for

¹ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2021/02feb/20210226-RA-11525-RRD.pdf>

² <https://mb.com.ph/2021/06/15/iatf-doh-urged-to-clarify-confusing-policy-on-proof-of-full-vaccination/>

full vaccination³. This means that individuals need to secure two different documents of the same purpose.

Moreover, in the 15 June 2021 Senate Committee of the Whole Hearing on the COVID-19 vaccination, Senate President Vicente Sotto III recognized the role of a unified vaccine card in facilitating the safe mobility of vaccinated individuals and in spurring economic growth. It was also perceived as instrumental in promoting and encouraging vaccination in the country citing how private businesses are offering discounts and incentives upon presentation of the vaccine card for those who are fully vaccinated.⁴

This measure seeks to expand the objectives of a vaccine card from being a purely informative record to a recognized document which a fully vaccinated individual can use for international and domestic travel, ease of access to business establishments and public places and other privileges provided for in this Act. This measure is no way making vaccination compulsory.

By providing these privileges, individuals, especially the OFWs, can now use the vaccine card as a proof of inoculation to travel for employment or other purpose allowed by the government. In a way, the privileges also encourages more individuals to have themselves inoculated. The expansion of the objectives of the vaccine card is the realization of the significance of vaccination mentioned above.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is eagerly sought.

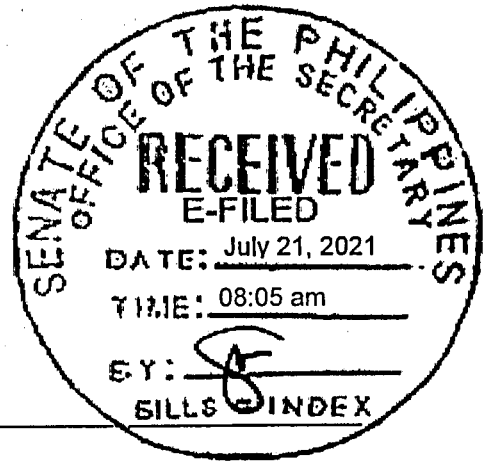

GRACE POE

³ <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2021/06jun/20210610-IATF-Resolution-120-RRD.pdf>

⁴ June 15 Committee of Whole Hearing transcript, page 8 and 9

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

SENATE
S. No. 2321



Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE CARD TO ENSURE THE SAFE MOBILITY OF VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS, LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, AND ULTIMATELY, TO ENCOURAGE VACCINE CONFIDENCE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11525, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 11525 is hereby amended to read
2 as follows:

3 "SEC. 12. *COVID-19 Vaccine Card.* — Subject to the provisions of
4 Republic Act No. 10173 or the "Data Privacy Act of 2012", the DOH shall issue
5 a vaccine card to all persons vaccinated. To fast track the process, the DOH
6 may delegate the processing and issuance of vaccine cards to LGUs and private
7 entities, subject to guidelines to be promulgated by the DOH. The vaccine card
8 shall contain the following:

- 9 (a) Basic personal information such as full name, present and/or
10 permanent address, and birthdate;
- 11 (b) Manufacturer, brand name, and batch number or other identifier of the
12 COVID-19 vaccine;
- 13 (c) Date of vaccination;
- 14 (d) Name of the hospital, health center, or health facility where the
15 vaccine was received;

- 16 (e) Name, signature, and license number of the duly licensed physician,
17 nurse or other health worker administering the vaccine;
18 (f) Date of the last RT-PCR testing and the name of the laboratory' that
19 conducted the last RT-PCR testing, if applicable; and
20 (g) Such other information which may be determined as necessary by the
21 Secretary of Health or the IATF-EID in line with the declared policy of this Act.

22 The issuance of a vaccine card is intended to be digital, but shall remain
23 accessible through other means such as printed cards. The DOH, through the
24 Department of Information and Communications Technology, shall develop the
25 LGU-based digital systems and applications that will meet the objectives of the
26 COVID-19 Vaccination Program while maintaining quality, safety, ease of use,
27 and accessibility for all Filipinos: Provided, That the DOH shall maintain a central
28 database of vaccinations, and mandate a uniform format for the vaccine card,
29 the contents of which shall be updated accordingly to always conform with
30 globally accepted standards: Provided, further, That the vaccine cards shall not
31 be considered as an additional mandatory requirement for educational,
32 employment and other similar government transaction purposes.

33 **THE COVID-19 VACCINE CARD MAY BE USED FOR, BUT NOT**
34 **LIMITED TO:**

35 **(A) INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY FOREIGN**
36 **JURISDICTIONS; AND**

37 **(B) EASE OF DOMESTIC TRAVEL, AS MAY BE ALLOWED UNDER IATF**
38 **REGULATIONS.**

39 **HOWEVER,** [~~Individuals vaccinated against COVID-19 as indicated in~~
40 ~~the vaccine card~~] **THEY** shall not be considered immune from COVID-19,
41 unless otherwise declared by the DOH based on reliable scientific evidence and
42 consensus.

43 No fees shall be collected for the issuance, amendment, or replacement
44 of a vaccine card. The amount needed for the initial implementation shall be
45 charged against available funds for the purpose. Thereafter, such sums as may
46 be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual
47 General Appropriations Act.

48 The falsification of a vaccine card shall be punishable under Act No.
49 3185, as amended, otherwise known as "The Revised Penal Code"."

50 SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The DOH and concerned
51 agencies shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the
52 provisions herein within thirty (30) days from date of effectivity of this Act.

53 The non-promulgation of the rules and regulations provided under this section
54 shall not prevent the immediate implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

55 SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* — If for any reason, any provision of this Act is
56 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected
57 shall remain in full force and effect.

58 SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
59 parts thereof, which are contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
60 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

61 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication
62 in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,