



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

'22 AUG 16 P2:18

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1180

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

**AN ACT
INSTITUTING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the weaknesses of our healthcare system. In the early years of the pandemic, the increasing COVID-19 cases overwhelmed both private and public hospitals in the country. Medical personnel were also strained by the number of COVID-19 patients in health facilities. The Department of Health had to call for volunteer doctors and nurses to fight against the highly infectious disease.

This bill seeks to uphold the role of medical and health-related personnel in nation-building, promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being; to inculcate in them patriotism and nationalism; and to encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

This bill establishes a Medical Reserve Corps which shall be composed of licensed medical personnel and persons who have degrees in the field of medicine, nursing, medical technology, and other health-related fields. The members of the Medical Reserve Corps may be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government and the local government units in their functions related to addressing

the medical needs of the public in times of national emergencies. This measure hopes to address the lack of medical personnel in times of emergencies which hinders the State's capacity to address a health crisis immediately and effectively.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is urgently sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bong T. Go', written over a diagonal line that extends from the top right towards the bottom left.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

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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 Act of 2022."

3
4 Sec. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State:

5
6 a. To institutionalize the vital role of medical and health-related personnel in
7 nation-building, promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual,
8 intellectual, and social well-being; to inculcate in them patriotism and
9 nationalism; and to encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;
10 and

11
12 b. To train, equip and organize medical and health-related personnel, within
13 the current frameworks of national and territorial defense, law enforcement
14 and peace and order and national disaster risk reduction and management,
15 to prepare them for rapid mobilization at the soonest possible time in order
16 to address national and/or local contingencies which may require manpower

1 beyond the capabilities of existing national government agencies or local
2 government units.

3
4 *Sec. 3. Medical Reserve Corps.* – There is hereby established a Medical Reserve
5 Corps (MRC) under the Health Emergency Bureau of the Department of Health (DOH).
6 The MRC shall be composed of licensed physicians, nurses, medical technologists,
7 persons who have degrees in the field of medicine, nursing, medical technology and
8 other health-related fields, members of the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the
9 Philippines (AFP) in the Medical Service, and administrative and technical personnel.

10
11 Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH shall issue
12 guidelines on the recruitment, selection and length of service of the MRC members.
13 The DOH, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM),
14 shall determine and provide appropriate compensation and incentives for MRC
15 members in order to encourage membership to the MRC.

16
17 The Medical Reserve Corps shall be called for retraining every three (3) years
18 to maintain and enhance its level of competency and readiness for mobilization.

19
20 *Sec. 4. Medical Reserve Corps Mobilization.* – In times of national emergencies
21 and other contingencies, the members of the Medical Reserve Corps may be called
22 upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and
23 instrumentalities, and local government units in their functions related to addressing
24 the medical needs of the public.

25
26 The DOH, in consultation with the Department of National Defense (DND) and
27 the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall issue guidelines for
28 the requests for deployment and mobilization of the MRC.

29
30 *Sec. 5. Annual Reports.* – The DOH shall regularly publish an annual report
31 containing a list of its accomplishments, status of its operations, number and

1 demography of the Medical Reserve Corps, assessment of readiness for mobilization
2 and the incidence and details of each mobilization for the year concerned.

3
4 *Sec. 6. Requests for Deployment.* – The Medical Reserve Corps may be called
5 upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and
6 instrumentalities, and the local government units in their functions related to
7 addressing the medical needs of the public through requests for deployment by the
8 heads of such national government agencies or local government units submitted to
9 the DOH.

10
11 The requests shall contain a justification for the deployment of the Corps and
12 shall contain information as may be required by the DOH, including the nature of the
13 national or local contingencies to be addressed, the purpose of the requested
14 deployment, the number of personnel requested to be deployed and the period of
15 deployment.

16
17 *Sec. 7. Evaluation of the Requests for Deployment.* – Within twenty-four (24)
18 hours from receipt of the requests for deployment, the DOH shall evaluate the requests
19 for deployment and issue an Order of Deployment requiring the Corps, or a number
20 thereof, to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities or the
21 local government units in their functions related to addressing the health-related
22 needs of the public.

23
24 *Sec. 8. Deployment in Case of a Declaration of a State of War, State of Lawless*
25 *Violence or State of Calamity; Nationwide Mobilization.* – In case of a declaration of a
26 state of calamity or state of public health emergency, the DOH shall be authorized to
27 mobilize the Corps to respond to national or local contingencies to address the health-
28 related needs of the public.

29
30 *Sec. 9. Mobilization Centers.* – There shall be designated mobilization centers
31 in every province, where the MRC will report in case of deployment.

1 In case of mobilization, the equipment and housing of the Corps shall be
2 supplied in close coordination with the DOH and other national agencies and offices,
3 with the end in view of achieving rapid mobilization.

4
5 *Sec. 10. Operationalization of Deployment.* – The DOH, in consultation with the
6 DND and DILG, shall promulgate the specific mechanisms by which deployment is
7 efficiently implemented, including the organization of the Corps to be deployed, their
8 territorial assignments, how deployment orders are communicated to each member of
9 the Corps and to which mobilization center they will report.

10
11 *Sec. 11. Termination of Deployment.* – Upon the expiration of the requested
12 period of deployment, without an extension having been requested and approved by
13 the DOH, the Corps shall be discharged of its duties. The deployment may also be
14 terminated earlier upon a determination by the DOH, in consultation with the
15 requesting national government agency or local government unit, that such
16 deployment is no longer in accordance with the objectives and purposes of this Act.

17
18 *Sec. 12. Effect on Employment.* – Deployment of employees in accordance with
19 the provisions of this Act shall not be a ground for dismissal or diminution of any
20 benefit enjoyed by such graduates prior to their deployment. The members of the
21 Corps shall continue to be entitled to their regular wage or salary during the period of
22 their deployment.

23
24 *Sec. 13. Penal Provisions; Failure to Respond.* –

25
26 a. Failure to respond to the order of deployment despite notice sent to the
27 address and/or contact details on file with the DOH without any justifiable
28 reason shall, upon conviction by a civil court, be punishable as follows:

29
30 1. First Offense: One hundred and twenty (120) hours of community
31 service;

1 2. Second Offense: Two hundred and forty (240) hours of community
2 service; and

3
4 3. Third and Subsequent Offenses: Six (6) months imprisonment and four
5 hundred and eighty (480) hours of community service.

6
7 *Sec. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* –Within thirty (30) days
8 from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with relevant government
9 agencies, shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement
10 the objectives and purposes of this Act. The rules and regulations shall include
11 provisions on the structure and organization of the Corps, the specific mechanisms for
12 the efficient mobilization and deployment of the Corps, and such other matters as the
13 DOH may deem necessary or essential to fully implement the objectives and purposes
14 of this Act.

15
16 *Sec. 15. Appropriations.* – The funding for the initial implementation of this Act
17 shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, funding shall be
18 included in the budget of the DOH under the annual General Appropriations Act.

19
20 *Sec. 16. Repealing Clause.* All laws, orders, rules regulations and other
21 issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
22 amended or modified accordingly.

23
24 *Sec. 17. Separability Clause.* – Any provision of this Act declared
25 unconstitutional shall not affect the validity of the other provisions thereof.

26
27 *Sec. 18. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
28 publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,