EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Third Regular Session

OF OF THE SECTION OF

SENATE

## COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 326

Submitted by the Committee on Finance (upon the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program), jointly with the Committee on Health and Demography on September 29, 2021.

Re: Senate Bill No. 2422

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2381, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 2321

Sponsor: Senator Pia S. Cayetano

#### MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Finance (upon the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program), joint with the Committee on Health and Demography to which was referred **Senate Bill No. 2381**, introduced by Senators Pia S. Cayetano, Franklin M. Drilon, Sonny Angara, Grace Poe, Win Gatchalian, and Imee R. Marcos entitled:

#### "AN ACT

CREATING A VACCINE PASSPORT PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11525, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2021, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"

taking into consideration **Senate No. 2321**, introduced by Senator Grace Poe, entitled:

#### "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"

have considered the same and have the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached **Senate Bill No.** 2422, prepared by the Committees entitled;

#### "AN ACT

CREATING A VACCINE AND HEALTH PASSPORT PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11525, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2021, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR"

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2381, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 2321 with Senators Pia Cayetano, Franklin M. Drilon, Sonny Angara, Grace Poe, Win Gatchalian, Imee R. Marcos and Christopher Bong Go as authors thereof.

### Respectfully submitted:

Chairpersons

Pra S. Caystans SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO

Demography

Sub-committee on Vaccine Passport Program Vice-Chairperson, Committees on Finance; and Health and **SEN. SONNY ANGARA** *Committee on Finance* 

SEN. CHRISTOPHER BONG GO

Committee on Health and Demography
Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance; and Sub-committee on Vaccine Passport Program

Vice-Chairpersons

SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program SEN. RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program Member, Committee on Health and Demography

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"may interpellate and introduce amendments"

SEN. JOÉL VILLANUEVA

Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program

Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program

Member, Committee on Health and Demography

of the house

Program

SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

Committee on Finance; and Sub-

committee on Vaccine Passport

SEN. IMEE R. MARCOS

Committee on Finance; and Sub-committee on Vaccine Passport Program

Member, Committee on Health and Demography

**SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS** 

Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program Member, Committee on Health and Demography SEN GRACE POF

Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program

**SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY** 

Committee on Health and Demography Member, Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program

#### Members

SEN, MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program

SEN. AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

Committees on Finance; Health and Demography; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program

SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

Committees on Finance; Health and Demography; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program

SEN. LEILA M. DE LIMA

Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program SEN. EMMANUEL "MANNY" D. PACQUIAO

Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program

SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.

Committee on Finance; and Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport
Program

SEN PANFILO M. LACSON

Committees on Finance; Health and Demography; and Sub-committee on Vaccine Passport Program

SEN. FRANCIS PANGILINAN

Committees on Finance; Health and Demography; and Sub-committee on Vaccine Passport Program

"KIKO"

Ex Officio Members

SEN. RALPH G. RECTO

President Pro-Tempore

SEN JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

Majority Leader

SEN. FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Minprity Leader

HON. VICENTE C. SOTTO III

Senate President

# EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Third Regular Session

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SENATE

s. No. 2422

(In Substitution of S.B. No. 2381, taking into consideration S.B. No. 2321)

Prepared by the Committee on Finance (upon the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Vaccine Passport Program); and Health and Demography with Senators Cayetano, Drilon, Angara, Poe, Gatchalian, Marcos, and Go as authors thereof

#### AN ACT

CREATING A VACCINE AND HEALTH PASSPORT PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11525, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2021, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Vaccine and Health
Passport Program Act".

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Constitution mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

The State recognizes the importance of preventive healthcare and the need to take proactive measures in the fight against diseases, particularly COVID-19. It acknowledges that a comprehensive and sustainable immunization program for vaccine-preventable diseases is indispensable to achieve the objectives of universal healthcare and the country's commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). A Vaccine and Health Passport Program can help facilitate COVID-19 immunization and future immunization programs by allowing the State to track who has been vaccinated and where priority vaccinations should take place. It also serves as a means to monitor the vaccines'

effects and the effectiveness of immunization programs. Towards this end, the State shall adopt and implement a Vaccine and Health Passport Program to facilitate its COVID-19 and future immunization programs against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sec. 3. *Vaccine and Health Passport Program.* – Subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 or the "Data Privacy Act of 2012" and to the guidelines to be promulgated by the Department of Health (DOH), the Local Government Units (LGUs) shall issue a vaccine and health passport, which shall contain the following information:

- a) Basic personal information such as full name, present and/or permanent address, and birthdate;
- b) Manufacturer, brand name, and batch number or other identifier of the COVID-19 vaccine;
- c) Date/s of vaccination;

- d) Name of the hospital, health center, or health facility where the vaccine was received;
- e) Name, signature and license number of the duly licensed physician, nurse or other authorized health worker administering the vaccine;
- f) Date and results of the last RT-PCR testing and the name of the laboratory that conducted the last RT-PCR testing, if applicable; and
- g) Such other information which may be determined as necessary by the Secretary of Health or the IATF-EID in line with the declared policy of this Act.

The LGUs shall issue vaccine and health passports in printed form or, as far as practicable, in digital form: *Provided,* That the DOH shall maintain a central database of vaccinations where the information provided in the passport can be verified, and mandate a format for the vaccine and health passport to ensure uniformity and authenticity, the contents of which shall be updated accordingly to conform with globally accepted standards: *Provided, further,* That vaccine cards and other similar certificates already issued prior to the implementation of this Act shall remain valid and may be replaced with the new format as mandated by the DOH.

No funds shall be collected for the issuance, amendment, or replacement of a vaccine and health passport.

- Sec. 4. *Benefits of Receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine.* Individuals partially or fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as evidenced in their vaccine and health passport may be granted certain benefits or exemptions, subject to guidelines issued by the IATF-EID and/or the DOH, such as but not limited to:
  - a) Non-essential domestic travel;

- b) International travel, as may be allowed in foreign jurisdictions;
- c) Local checkpoint and quarantine exemptions or reduced quarantine time; and
- d) Access to business establishments allowed to operate based on IATF-EID guidelines, such as but not limited to, indoor and outdoor dining, entertainment venues, cultural centers such as museums and galleries, and sports venues.

*Provided,* That regardless of vaccination status, existing rules and regulations on COVID-19 positive individuals and their close contacts shall apply.

Individuals partially or fully vaccinated against COVID-19, as indicated in the vaccine and health passport, shall not be considered immune from COVID-19, unless otherwise declared by the DOH based on reliable scientific evidence and consensus.

- Sec. 5. *Non-Discrimination Against Persons Who Cannot Be Vaccinated.* Nothing in this Act shall be interpreted as to discriminate against:
  - a) Persons who are unable to get vaccinated due to unavailability of vaccines;
  - b) Persons with valid health conditions that prevent them from being vaccinated; and
  - c) Persons who belong to an age group that are unable to be vaccinated and are not included in the COVID-19 vaccination program.

*Provided,* That the IATF-EID and LGUs shall continue to implement minimum safety and health protocols to ensure the safety and minimize the risks of the above-enumerated unvaccinated persons and those living and interacting with them out of necessity, and may impose the necessary restrictions to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of persons who cannot be vaccinated and those who may be exposed to them.

Sec. 6. *Interoperability of the Vaccine and Health Passport Program.* – All vaccine cards and other similar certificates issued prior to the implementation of this Act, as well as the vaccine and health passports to be issued under this Act, and existing and future government systems and databases that collect, store, and process information on COVID-19 vaccination and testing as provided in Section 3 herein, may be integrated, as far as practicable, with the Philippine Identification System as provided in Republic Act No. 11055 or the "Philippine Identification System Act".

The Department of Information and Communications Technology, DOH, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Philippine Statistics Authority insofar as it refers to the "Philippine Identification System Act", and other concerned agencies, in coordination with the LGUs, shall ensure the interoperability of the systems and databases involved, the authenticity, security and integrity of the information, and the quality, safety, ease of use and accessibility for all Filipinos, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

Sec. 7. Adoption of the Vaccine and Health Passport Program for Other Immunization Programs. – The DOH may adopt the Vaccine and Health Passport Program to document other immunization programs, including but not limited to mandatory basic immunization as provided by Republic Act No. 10152 or the "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011", subject to quidelines to be issued by the DOH.

Sec. 8. Recognition of Vaccine and Health Passports/Cards/Certificates Issued Abroad. - The Bureau of Quarantine, in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, shall issue guidelines on the recognition of vaccine and health passports/cards/certificates issued abroad: *Provided,* That the guidelines shall be updated accordingly to always conform with globally accepted standards.

Sec. 9. *Acts Punishable.* – The falsification of a vaccine and health passport shall be punishable under Act No. 3815, otherwise known as "The Revised Penal Code".

Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within 15 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall promulgate and issue the necessary guidelines for the effective implementation of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations

- issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
- Sec. 11. *Appropriations.* –The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against available funds for the purpose. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
- Sec. 12. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.
- Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.* All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
- Sec. 14. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,