

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2470

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT. NO. 11332 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN
ACT PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON
SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES,
EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE
ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAW ON REPORTING OF
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Two years since the Philippines' first ever recorded Covid-19 case, the country is facing yet another spike in infections, which the Department of Health suspects to be caused by the dreaded Omicron variant. The B.1.1.529 variant, also named Omicron, was first reported to the World Health Organization from South Africa in 24 November 2021. It is now the dominant strain of coronavirus in countries such as the United States and France, only more than a month after it was first reported.

In just 12 days, cases in the Philippines have increased drastically from 168 new cases on 21 December 2021 to 4,600 new cases on 2 January 2022. In an online press briefing, Department of Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire has stated that it is the DOH's assumption that Omicron has now reached our communities. The country is now at high-risk case classification, with a positive two-week growth rate of 222 percent. As of 2 January 2022, Metro Manila alone has recorded a two-week growth rate of 813 percent.

Based on the Covid-19 Budget Utilization Reports of the Department of Budget and Management, as of 30 September 2021, the Philippine Government has allotted a total of 690 billion pesos, which covers items such as vaccine procurement and other Covid-19-related expenses. To complement the vaccination program of the government, strict travel regulations have also been put in place to control the spread of Covid-19 in the country, as well as to prevent new variants from reaching our communities.

In the past week, reports about a returning overseas Filipino who breached quarantine protocols circulated on social media. Based on the investigation of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said individual was fetched from the quarantine hotel 17 minutes after check in on 22 December 2021, and returned

to the hotel on the night of 25 December 2021, after attending a social event with friends on 23 December 2021. Said person then received a positive RT-PCR test result on 26 December 2021.

This measure seeks to address the issue arising from this incident by prohibiting the non-compliance, evasion or skipping off on mandatory quarantine or isolation or commission of breach of health protocols of persons potentially to have or presumed to have or identified as having the notifiable or highly transmissible disease or disease of international concern, especially during a pandemic or public health emergency. It further introduces higher penalties for said violations.

Such irresponsible acts committed by certain individuals undermine our collective efforts to control the spread of Covid-19 in the country and this should not be tolerated.

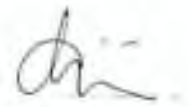
In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH
EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "LAW ON REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES" AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *On Section 9 of RA 11332, insert new Subsections (f) and (g) to read as*
2 *follows:*

3
4 **"Section 9. Prohibited Acts.** -The following shall be prohibited under this
5 Act:

6
7 **XXX**

8 **(F) NON-COMPLIANCE, EVASION OR SKIPPING OFF ON**
9 **MANDATORY QUARANTINE OR ISOLATION OR COMMISSION**
10 **OF SERIOUS BREACH OF HEALTH PROTOCOLS OF**
11 **PERSONS POTENTIALLY TO HAVE OR PRESUMED TO HAVE OR**
12 **IDENTIFIED AS HAVING THE NOTIFIABLE OR HIGHLY**
13 **TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASE OR DISEASE OF INTERNATIONAL**
14 **CONCERN, ESPECIALLY DURING PANDEMIC OR PUBLIC**
15 **HEALTH EMERGENCY. FOR THIS PURPOSE, SERIOUS BREACH**
16 **OF HEALTH PROTOCOLS IS DEFINED AS TO ENDANGER THE**
17 **HEALTH, SAFETY AND LIVES OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR A**
18 **COMMUNITY IF THEY CONTRACTED THE DISEASE FROM THE**
19 **ONE WHO COMMITTED THE VIOLATION; AND**

20 **(G) INDIVIDUALS OR ENTITIES WHO AIDED THE PERSONS**
21 **CONTEMPLATED UNDER SUBSECTION 9 (F) OF THIS ACT, OR**
22 **ACTED AS AN ACCOMPLICE IN NON-COMPLIANCE, EVASION OR**
23 **SKIPPING OFF ON MANDATORY QUARANTINE OR ISOLATION**
24 **WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD FOR QUARANTINE OR**
25 **ISOLATION AS DETERMINED BY THE DOH OR OTHER**

1 AUTHORIZED AGENCY, OR IN THE COMMISSION OF SERIOUS
2 BREACH OF HEALTH PROTOCOLS, SUCH AS OWNERS,
3 OFFICIALS OR EMPLOYEES OF QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION
4 FACILITIES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES,
5 SHALL BE HELD SIMILARLY LIABLE.”

6
7 **SEC. 2.** After the first paragraph of Section 10, insert the succeeding paragraphs to read
8 as follows:
9

10 **“Section 10. Penalties.** - Any person or entity found to have violated
11 Section 9 of this Act shall be penalized with a fine of not less than Twenty
12 thousand pesos (P20,000.00) but not more than Fifty thousand pesos
13 (P50,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not
14 more than six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment, at the
15 discretion of the proper court.
16

17 **FOR VIOLATIONS UNDER SECTION 9 (F) AND (G) OF THIS ACT**
18 **THE PENALTY OF FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED**
19 **THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE**
20 **MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00) SHALL BE IMPOSED OR**
21 **IMPRISONMENT OF ONE (1) YEAR BUT NOT MORE THAN SIX (6)**
22 **YEARS, OR BOTH SUCH FINE AND IMPRISONMENT, AT THE**
23 **DISCRETION OF THE PROPER COURT.**
24

25 **HOWEVER, IF, AS A RESULT OF THIS VIOLATION, ANOTHER**
26 **PERSON OR PERSONS HAD CONTRACTED THE DISEASE AND**
27 **RESULTED TO PERMANENT INCAPACITY OR DEATH, THE**
28 **PENALTY OF ONE (1) MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00) AND**
29 **PAYMENT OF CIVIL DAMAGES OR IMPRISONMENT OF SIX (6)**
30 **YEARS TO TWELVE (12) YEARS, OR BOTH SUCH FINE, PAYMENT**
31 **OF CIVIL DAMAGES AND IMPRISONMENT, AT THE DISCRETION**
32 **OF THE PROPER COURT.”**
33

34 **“XXX”**
35

36 **SEC. 3. Separability Clause.** - If any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or
37 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
38

39 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances and rules and regulations
40 or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
41 modified accordingly.
42

43 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
44 Official *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.