Submitted by the Committee on Appropriations and Committee on Ways and Means on __________

Re: House Bill No. 8648

Recommending its approval with amendments in consolidation with House Bill No. 8649


Mr. Speaker,

The Committees on Appropriations and Ways and Means to which were referred:

House Bill No. 8648, introduced by Reps. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, and Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano titled:

"AN ACT EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"; and

House Bill No. 8649, introduced by Rep. Junie E. Cua titled:
"AN ACT EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY EXEMPTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT," AND OTHER RELATED LAWS"

have considered the same and recommend the approval of House Bill No. 8648 in consolidation with House Bill No. 8649, titled:

"AN ACT EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

with the following amendments:

1. On Section 3, page 2, lines 4 to 13, delete the entire provision and renumber succeeding provisions accordingly.

2. On Section 4, page 2, line 15, delete the phrase "Drugs and" and in lieu thereof substitute AND ANCILLARY SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

3. On the same Section and page 2, line 17, insert a new sub-section (a) and adjust succeeding sub-sections:


On the same Section and page, delete lines 24 to 49 and on page 3, delete lines 1 to 13, and in lieu thereof substitute the following:

(c) PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES (LGUS) MAY PURCHASE, ONLY IN COOPERATION WITH THE DOH AND NTF AGAINST COVID-19, THROUGH A MULTIPARTY AGREEMENT WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE DOH AND THE RELEVANT SUPPLIER OF COVID-19 VACCINE OR ANCILLARY SUPPLIES OR SERVICES: PROVIDED, THAT THE LGU SHALL COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF DEPLOYMENT PROMULGATED BY THE DOH AND THE NTF JOINTLY: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT LGUS MAY ONLY PURCHASE COVID-19 VACCINES THAT ARE REGISTERED WITH THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION WHICH PROCESSES
VALID CERTIFICATE OF PRODUCT REGISTRATION OR EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION.

(d) THE POSTING REQUIREMENT FOR THE PROCUREMENT AS AUTHORIZED IN THIS ACT SHALL BE MADE ON THE GPPB ONLINE PORTAL BY THE PROCURING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT. IN THE CASE OF PROCUREMENT OF VACCINES ENTERED INTO PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE POSTING SHALL BE MADE WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

4. On Section 7, page 3, lines 32 to 35 between the comma (,) and the word "this" delete the phrase "the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Government Procurement Policy Board and the Department of Health, shall issue the special procurement rules for the effective implementation of" and in lieu thereof substitute the following:

THE DOH AND THE NTF JOINTLY, AND WITH PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE GPPB AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, SHALL ISSUE GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTING

5. On Section 11, page 4, line 3, between the word "until" and the comma (,), delete the date "September 12, 2021" and in lieu thereof substitute JUNE 30, 2022


Respectfully submitted,

JOEY SARTE SALCEDA
Chairperson
Committee on Ways and Means

ERIC G. YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  

Eighteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 8648  
(In Consolidation with House Bill Numbered 8649)  

AN ACT  
EXPEDITING THE PROCUREMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES  
FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019  
(COVID-19), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES  

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known and cited as "COVID-19  
Vaccination Program Act of 2021".  

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
adopt an integrated approach to health development which shall endeavor to make  
essential social services available to all people at affordable cost. For this reason, the  
State shall undertake a COVID-19 Vaccination Program with the following  
objectives:  

(a) Address the adverse impact of COVID-19 through the procurement and  
administration of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines by the National  
Government through the Department of Health (DOH) and the National  
Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF), and other duly constituted  
authorities and instrumentalities in an expeditious, efficient, and equitable  
manner;
(b) Source and procure through the DOH and NTF, either through themselves jointly or in cooperation with any national government agency or instrumentality or local government unit, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, regardless of source of funding;

(c) Recognize the experimental nature of COVID-19 vaccines available in the market and compensate any serious adverse effects (SAE) arising from the use of COVID-19 vaccine, experienced by people inoculated through the COVID-19 Vaccination Program; and

(d) Creation of a COVID-19 National Vaccine Indemnity Fund to be administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to compensate persons encountering SAE pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

SEC. 3. Procurement of COVID-19 Vaccines, and Ancillary Supplies and Services by the Government. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the DOH and the NTF, either through themselves jointly or in cooperation with any national government agency or instrumentality or local government unit, are authorized to procure COVID-19 vaccines, including ancillary supplies and services necessary for their storage, transport, deployment and administration, through negotiated procurement under emergency cases as defined by Sec. 53(b) of Republic Act No. 9184 and Sections 53 and 53.2 of the 2016 Revised IRR of R.A. No. 9184: Provided, That in the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines, the DOH and NTF shall be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions thereof in behalf of the LGUs and other procuring entities, including but not limited to the price and payment terms to ensure price uniformity and to prevent price competition: Provided, Further, That after the negotiations by DOH and NTF, the LGU and other procuring entities are authorized to enter into the supply agreement, advance market commitment, advance payment, research investment, purchase order or any similar arrangement or other requirement as may be identified by the DOH and the NTF: Provided, Finally, That in the procurement of ancillary supplies and services necessary for the storage, transport, deployment and administration, the LGU is authorized to directly negotiate through negotiated procurement under emergency cases prescribed under this section.

Section 338 of RA 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," and Section 88 of Presidential Decree No. 1445, as amended, otherwise known as the "Government Auditing Code of the Philippines" and any law to the contrary notwithstanding, provinces, cities and municipalities may advance payment of not more than Fifty Percent (50%) of the total contract price if required by the supplier, manufacturer, or distributor: Provided, that the authority to make advance payment shall be for the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines and to secure other goods and services necessary for their storage, transport, deployment and administration: Provided, Further, That the deployment of vaccines in every
province, city and municipality must be in accordance with criteria of the interim National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG).

This Section applies retroactively to January 1, 2021 for the procurement of vaccine.

SEC. 4. Procurement of COVID-19 Vaccines and Ancillary Supplies and Services by Local Government Units. - Provinces, cities and municipalities may procure or accept donations only in cooperation with the DOH and NTF through a multiparty agreement, which shall include the DOH and the relevant supplier or donor of COVID-19 vaccine: Provided, That these LGUs shall procure no more than fifty percent (50%) of their target population for vaccination: Provided, Further, That the fifty percent (50%) cap may be adjusted by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases when there is sufficient supply of vaccines as determined by DOH and NTF: Provided, Furthermore, That the provision on advance payment as provided in the preceding section shall apply to procurement of COVID-19 vaccines and ancillary supplies and services: Provided, Finally, That nothing in this Section shall prohibit LGUs from procuring directly from manufacturers, or its authorized distributors or suppliers once the COVID-19 vaccines become commercially available.

LGUs may directly accept donation of vaccines as long as they have been procured through a multiparty agreement prescribed under this Act.

This Section applies retroactively to January 1, 2021.

If the procurement of vaccine is funded by the national government, the LGU shall comply with the science and evidence-based terms and conditions of deployment and prioritization provided by the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG).

For LGU-funded vaccines, the inoculation order must, at all times, be science and evidence-based, prioritizing the needs of the following special groups: frontline workers in health facilities, senior citizens, and indigent persons.

To ensure transparency, the LGUs shall also submit to the National Government a master list of the names and profiles of the residents in their respective localities who are eligible to receive the vaccine from the national government.

SEC. 5. Procurement of COVID-19 Vaccines by Private Entities. - Private entities may procure COVID-19 vaccines only in cooperation with the DOH and NTF through a multiparty agreement, which shall include the DOH and the relevant supplier of COVID-19 vaccine. Any such vaccines, supplies or services procured by private entities shall be for the sole and exclusive use of such companies, without prejudice to the multiparty agreement: Provided, That in the negotiation of the terms and conditions in the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines, none of the terms offered to private entities is or will be more favourable to such private entities than those provided to the government: Provided, Further, That priority in the inoculation shall be given to its health care workers, senior citizens, economic
frontliners, and essential workers: Provided, Furthermore, That nothing in this Section shall prohibit private entities from procuring directly from manufacturers, or its authorized distributors or suppliers once the COVID-19 vaccines become commercially available.

This Section applies retroactively to November 1, 2020.

SEC. 6. Transparency and Accountability in COVID-19 Vaccine Procurement. –

The national government as well as local government units may only procure or accept donations involving COVID-19 vaccines that are registered with the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as evidenced by a valid Certificate of Product Registration or which possess an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). For purposes of transparency, the following information shall be posted in a conspicuous place of the procuring entity and in the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) Online Portal within thirty (30) days after award or execution of definitive agreement or after the effectivity of this Act, whichever is applicable:

(a) Approved budget for the contract;
(b) Name and details of the COVID-19 vaccine or ancillary service or supplies;
(c) Name of the supplier, manufacturer, or distributor; and
(d) Amount of contract as awarded.

SEC. 7. Authority to Make Recommendations Based on Preliminary Data from Phase III Clinical Trials. –

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) shall have the authority to make recommendations to the DOH and the PhilHealth on COVID-19 vaccines based on preliminary data from Phase III clinical trials and World Health Organization recommendations, in the absence of completed Phase III and Phase IV clinical trials: Provided, That the COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer has been issued an EUA by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA): Provided Further, That the authority granted to the HTAC herein shall only be valid for as long as the EUA issued by the FDA is in effect, such that in the event of revocation or cancellation thereof by the FDA Director General, the HTA process shall be terminated regardless of stage, and if it has been completed, the results shall be set aside.

SEC. 8. Immunity from Liability. –

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, public officials and employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives of private entities who are duly authorized to carry out and are actually carrying out the COVID-19 vaccination program, including vaccine manufacturers shall be immune from suit and liability under Philippine laws with respect to all claims arising out of, related to, or resulting from the administration or use of a COVID-19 vaccine under the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, except those arising from willful misconduct and gross negligence.


Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 4 (g) of RA 10918, otherwise known as the
“Philippine Pharmacy Act” and Section 23 of RA 7392, otherwise known as the “Philippine Midwifery Act of 1992”, licensed pharmacists and midwives duly trained by the DOH may administer vaccines which are registered and issued with an EUA by the FDA.

SEC. 10. COVID-19 National Vaccine Indemnity Fund. - The COVID-19 National Vaccine Indemnity Fund, which shall be administered by the PhilHealth, is hereby established to compensate any person inoculated through the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, in case of death, permanent disability or hospitalization confinement for any SAEs. The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000) is hereby authorized to augment the funds of PhilHealth for this purpose which shall be sourced from the Contingent Fund as provided under RA 11518 or the General Appropriations Act of 2021. The indemnity fund shall be valid and available for release and disbursement until fully expended or terminated by the President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Permanent Committee created under Executive Order No. 292, s. 1987, which shall regularly review and evaluate the necessity for the continued existence of the fund. In case of termination, the remaining balance of the fund shall revert to the National Treasury. The PhilHealth, in consultation with the DOH, the NTF and the Permanent Committee, shall issue the necessary guidelines for the planning, administration, and monitoring of the utilization of the fund.

The claim for indemnification for serious adverse event directly arising from the administration of COVID-19 vaccine must be filed within five (5) years from the day of inoculation.

For this purpose, the IATF shall establish a Special Task Group composed of medical and vaccine experts with proven track record who will be in charge of monitoring the probable Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) from COVID-19. The Special Task Group shall promulgate the necessary guidelines on the monitoring, evaluation, investigation and reporting mechanism to be followed by all LGUs.

This Section shall be valid and in effect for a period of five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act or until the government has declared the completion of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, whichever comes later.

SEC. 11 Exemption from Import Duties, Taxes and Other Fees for the Procurement, Deployment and Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines. - Beginning January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023, the procurement, importation, donation, storage, transport, deployment, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVID-19 Vaccination Program by the government or any of its political subdivisions and by private entities shall be exempt from customs duties, value-added tax, excise tax, donor's tax, and other fees: Provided, That the vaccines shall not be intended for resale or other commercial use and shall be distributed without consideration from persons to be vaccinated.
SEC. 12 Vaccine Passport Program. - Subject to the provisions of RA 10173 or the "Data Privacy Act of 2012", the DOH shall issue a vaccine passport to all Filipinos, which shall be a record of the COVID-19 vaccinations received by an individual. The vaccine passport shall take into account internationally-recognized standards, and shall contain the following:

(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 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 health worker administering the vaccine; and
(f) Such other information which may be determined as necessary by the Secretary of Health or the IATF in line with the declared policy of this Act.

The vaccine passport program is intended to be digital, but shall remain accessible through other means such as printed passports. The DOH, through the Department of Information and Communications Technology, shall develop the digital systems and applications that are consistent with the objectives of the program while maintaining quality, safety, ease of use, and accessibility for all Filipinos.

Individuals who have completed COVID-19 immunization may be granted certain benefits or exemptions, subject to guidelines issued by the IATF, which shall be clearly stated in the individual's vaccine passport, such as, but not limited to:

(a) International travel, as may be allowed in foreign jurisdictions;
(b) Non-essential domestic travel;
(c) Local checkpoint and quarantine exemptions; and
(d) Access to business establishments allowed to operate based on IATF guidelines.

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

No fees shall be collected for the issuance, amendment, or replacement of a vaccine passport. The amount needed for the initial implementation 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. 13 Offenses and Penalties in relation to the Issuance of a Vaccine Passport. -
(a) The penalty of imprisonment of not less than three (3) years, but not more than ten (10) years and a fine of not less than Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000) but not more than Sixty Thousand Pesos (P60,000) shall be imposed upon any person who shall commit the following acts:

1. Defacing, mutilating, altering, or destroying a vaccine passport; and
2. Possessing more than one valid vaccine passport.

(b) The penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years, but not more than ten (10) years and a fine of not less than Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000) but not more than Ninety thousand pesos (P90,000) shall be imposed upon any person who shall commit the following acts:

1. Using or attempting to use a vaccine passport issued for another holder, or furnishes a vaccine passport for the use of a person other than the holder;
2. Falsifying, forging, or counterfeiting of vaccine passport;
3. Knowingly using a falsified, forged, or counterfeit vaccine passport; and
4. Distributing falsified, forged, and/or counterfeit vaccine passport.

SEC. 14 Reportorial Requirement and Creation of an Oversight Committee. – Within two (2) weeks from the effectivity of this Act, the Vaccine Czar and the IATF, shall submit, every three (3) weeks, a report to Congress on the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, which shall include the agreements made by procuring entities pursuant to this Act, data on the delivery, storage, and deployment of vaccines, the number of persons inoculated, and other relevant information as may be required by Congress. For this purpose, Congress shall establish a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee composed of four (4) members of each House to be appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively. This Committee shall determine whether the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccination Program conforms with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 15 Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within five (5) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH and the NTF jointly, and with prior consultation with the GPPB and other stakeholders, shall issue guidelines implementing this Act.

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

Sec. 16 Construction or Interpretation. – Nothing herein shall be construed as an impairment, restriction, or modification of the provisions of the Constitution. In case the exercise of the powers herein granted conflicts with other statutes, order, rules, or regulations, the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

Sec. 17 Separability Clause. – If any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
Sec. 18 Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 19 Sunset Clause. - This Act shall remain in full force and effect during the period of the state of calamity and public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic or until June 30, 2022, unless the state of calamity is earlier lifted or extended by the President of the Philippines.

Sec. 20. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8648
(In Consolidation with House Bill Numbered 8649)

Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand
Martin G. Romualdez, Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano and Junie E. Cua

AN ACT
EXPEDITING THE PROCUREMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES
FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019
(COVID-19), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known and cited as “COVID-19
Vaccination Program Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt
an integrated approach to health development which shall endeavor to make
essential social services available to all people at affordable cost. For this reason, the
State shall undertake a COVID-19 Vaccination Program with the following
objectives:

(a) Address the adverse impact of COVID-19 through the procurement and
administration of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines by the National
Government through the Department of Health (DOH) and the National
Taskforce Against COVID-19 (NTF), and other duly constituted authorities and instrumentalities;

(b) Source and procure through the DOH and NTF, either through themselves jointly or in cooperation with any national government agency or instrumentality or local government unit, safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, regardless of source of funding;

(c) Recognize the experimental nature of COVID-19 vaccines available in the market and compensate any serious adverse effects (SAE) arising from the use of COVID-19 vaccine, experienced by people inoculated through the COVID-19 Vaccination Program; and

(d) Creation of a COVID-19 National Vaccine Indemnity Fund to be administered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to compensate persons encountering SAE pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

SEC. 3. Procurement of COVID-19 Vaccines, and Ancillary Supplies and Services

(a) Notwithstanding Section 338 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," and Section 88 of Presidential Decree No.1445, as amended, otherwise known as the "Government Auditing Code of the Philippines," and any law to the contrary, the DOH and the NTF, either through themselves jointly or in cooperation with any national government agency or instrumentality, local government unit, or private entity are authorized to procure COVID-19 vaccines, including ancillary supplies and services necessary for their storage, transport and deployment, through negotiated procurement under emergency cases as defined by Sec. 53(b) of Republic Act No. 9184 and Sections 53 and 53.2 of the 2016 Revised IRR of R.A. No. 9184: Provided, That in the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines, the NTF shall be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions thereof in behalf of the procuring entities, including but not limited to the price and payment terms: Provided, Further, That after the negotiations by NTF, the procuring entity is authorized to enter into the supply agreement, advance market commitment, advance payment, research investment, purchase order or any similar scheme as may be approved by the NTF: Provided, Furthermore, That any advance payment, defined as any payment made before delivery or change in ownership, shall not exceed fifty percentum (50%) of the total consideration: Provided, Finally, That this Section shall have retroactive application from January 1, 2021 for the procurement of vaccine.
(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) shall have the authority to make recommendations to the DOH and the PhilHealth on COVID-19 vaccines based on preliminary data from Phase III clinical trials and World Health Organization recommendations, in the absence of completed Phase III and Phase IV clinical trials: Provided, That the COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer has been issued an EUA by the FDA: Provided further, that the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) process shall only be valid for as long as the EUA issued by the FDA is in effect, such that in the event of revocation or cancellation thereof by the FDA Director General, the HTA process shall be terminated regardless of stage, and if it has been completed, the results shall be set aside.

(c) Provinces, cities and municipalities (LGUs) may procure only in cooperation with the DOH and NTF against covid-19, through a multiparty agreement which shall include the DOH and the relevant supplier of COVID-19 vaccine or ancillary supplies or services: Provided, that the LGU shall comply with the terms and conditions of distribution promulgated by the DOH and the NTF jointly. Provided, Further, LGUS may only procure COVID-19 vaccines that are registered with the Food and Drug Administration which processes valid certificate of product registration or emergency use authorization;

(d) Procurement of vaccines, supplies or services by private entities shall be for the sole and exclusive use of such companies, without prejudice to the multiparty agreement: Provided, That in the negotiation of the terms and conditions in the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines, none of the terms offered to private entities is or will be more favorable to such private entities than those provided to the government; and

(e) The posting requirement for the procurement as authorized in this Act shall be made on the GPPB online portal by the procuring local government unit. In the case of procurement of vaccines entered into prior to the effectivity of this act, the posting shall made within 30 days from the effectivity of this act.

SEC. 4. Immunity from Liability. — Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Secretary of Health shall provide guidelines declaring a covered person to be immune from suit and liability under Philippine laws with respect to all claims arising out of, related to, or resulting from the administration or use of a COVID-19 vaccine under the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, except if the claim is brought about by willful misconduct. Covered person shall include public officers, their
employees, contractors, and volunteers who are duly authorized to carry out and actually carrying out the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

SEC. 5. COVID-19 National Vaccine Indemnity Fund. - The COVID-19 National Vaccine Indemnity Fund, which shall be administered by the PhilHealth, is hereby established to compensate any person inoculated through the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, in case of death or for the medical treatment of any SAEs. The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000) is hereby authorized to augment the funds of PhilHealth for this purpose which shall be sourced from the Contingent Fund.

For this purpose, the IATF shall establish a Special Task Group composed of medical and vaccine experts who will be in charge of monitoring the probable adverse events following immunization from COVID-19. The Special Task Group shall promulgate the necessary guidelines on the monitoring and reporting mechanism to be followed by all LGUs.

SEC. 6 Exemption from Import Duties, Taxes and Other Fees for the Procurement, Deployment and Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines. - Beginning January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023, the procurement, importation, donation, storage, transport, deployment, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines through the COVID-19 Vaccination Program by the government or any of its political subdivisions and by private entities shall be exempt from customs duties, value-added tax, excise tax, donor's tax, and other fees: Provided, That the vaccines shall not be intended for resale or other commercial use and shall be distributed without consideration from persons to be vaccinated.

SEC. 7 Vaccine Passport Program. - Subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 or the "Data Privacy Act of 2012", the DOH shall issue a vaccine passport to all Filipinos, which shall be a record of the COVID-19 vaccinations received by an individual. The vaccine passport shall take into account internationally-recognized standards, and shall contain the following:

(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 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 health worker administering the vaccine; and

(f) Such other information which may be determined as necessary by the Secretary of Health or the IATF in line with the declared policy of this Act.

The vaccine passport program is intended to be digital, but shall remain accessible through other means such as printed passports. The DOH, through the Department of Information and Communications Technology, shall develop the digital systems and applications that will meet the objectives of the program while maintaining quality, safety, ease of use, and accessibility for all Filipinos.

Individuals who have completed COVID-19 immunization may be granted certain benefits or exemptions, subject to guidelines issued by the IATF, which shall be clearly stated in the individual's vaccine passport, such as but not limited to:

(a) International travel, as may be allowed in foreign jurisdictions;
(b) Non-essential domestic travel;
(c) Local checkpoint and quarantine exemptions; and
(d) Access to business establishments allowed to operate based on IATF guidelines.

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

No fees shall be collected for the issuance, amendment, or replacement of a vaccine passport. The amount needed for the initial implementation 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. 8 Offenses and Penalties in relation to the Issuance of a Vaccine Passport. -
(a) The penalty of imprisonment of not less than three (3) years, but not more than ten (10) years and a fine of not less than Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000) but not more than Sixty thousand pesos (P60,000) shall be imposed upon any person who shall commit the following acts:

1. Defacing, mutilating, altering, or destroying a vaccine passport; and
2. Possessing more than one valid vaccine passport.
(b) The penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years, but not more than ten (10) years and a fine of not less than Thirty thousand pesos (P30,000) but not more than Ninety thousand pesos (P90,000) shall be imposed upon any person who shall commit the following acts:

1. Using or attempting to use a vaccine passport issued for another holder, or furnishes a vaccine passport for the use of a person other than the holder;
2. Falsifying, forging, and/or counterfeiting of vaccine passport;
3. Knowingly using a falsified, forged, and/or counterfeit vaccine passport; and
4. Distributing falsified, forged, and/or counterfeit vaccine passport.

SEC. 9 Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within five (5) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH and the NTF jointly, and with prior consultation with the GPPB and other stakeholders, shall issue guidelines implementing this Act.

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

Sec. 10 Construction or Interpretation. – Nothing herein shall be construed as an impairment, restriction, or modification of the provisions of the Constitution. In case the exercise of the powers herein granted conflicts with other statutes, order, rules, or regulations, the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

Sec. 11 Separability Clause. – If any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 12 Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. Sunset Clause. – This Act shall remain in full force and effect during the period of the state of calamity and public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic or until June 30, 2022, unless the state of calamity is earlier lifted or extended by the President of the Philippines.

Sec. 14. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8648

Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinando Martin G. Romualdez, and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State protects and promotes the right to health of the people, while ensuring social justice in all phases of national development. The territorial and political subdivisions of the State shall enjoy genuine and meaningful local autonomy to enable them to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make them more effective partners in the attainment of national goals.

To this end, recognizing the impact and effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID19) pandemic in our communities all over the country, and likewise cognizant of the role of our local government units (LGUs) to ensure that our people are protected, lives are saved, economic losses are stemmed and mitigated, and to restore public trust and confidence in our institutions, the State has introduced this mechanism to ensure that the COVID19 vaccine is procured and administered in an expeditious, effective, efficient, and equitable manner.

The crucial fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is the vaccination process of a significant part of the population to attain herd immunity. The Philippine Congress has passed a budget of P72.5 billion for COVID-19 vaccines to cover 30-50% of the Philippine population for 2021, but the same falls short of attaining herd immunity, through the immunization of the majority of the population.

The costs of each day of not having the vaccine are staggering. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) estimates that every week of ECQ/MECQ in the NCR and its adjacent regions alone shaves off 0.28 percentage points from GDP growth. This is equivalent to around 2.1 billion pesos in lost wages a day. This exacerbates the effects of this pandemic particularly on the more vulnerable members of our society where involuntary hunger has reached unmatched heights in the country’s recent history.
Furthermore, the country can no longer absorb the economic losses of any further restriction in economic activity. The NEDA estimates that GDP fell by 16.9 percent and the unemployment rate increased to 17.7 percent during the peak of quarantine restrictions. For the full year, GDP plunged 9.5% — the steepest economic contraction in Philippine history, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) which began collecting annual data in 1947.

The next crucible in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic is the speedy procurement and effective administration of vaccines against the deadly disease. Time is of the essence. Each day of delay is very costly for the government, and leaves many of our vulnerable countrymen exposed to the dangers of this disease.

The expeditious approval of this bill is requested.

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

FERDINAND MARTIN G. RONUALDEZ

JOSEPH STEPHEN "CARAPS" S. PADUANO
Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  

Eighteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 8648

Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano

AN ACT  
EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT,” AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION. 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known and cited as the “Emergency Vaccine Procurement Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. The State protects and promotes the right to health of the people, while ensuring social justice in all phases of national development. The territorial and political subdivisions of the State shall enjoy genuine and meaningful local autonomy to enable them to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make them more effective partners in the attainment of national goals. To this end, recognizing the impact and effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID19) pandemic in our communities all over the country, and likewise cognizant of the role of our local government units (LGUs) to ensure that our people are protected, lives are saved, economic losses are stemmed and mitigated, and to restore public trust and confidence in our institutions, the State has introduced this mechanism to ensure that the COVID19 vaccine is procured and administered in an expeditious, effective, efficient, and equitable manner.
SEC. 3. Authorized Power for Local Government Units to Procure COVID-19 Vaccines. - Notwithstanding the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act,” Section 338 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991,” and Section 88 of Presidential Decree No. 1445, as amended, otherwise known as the “Government Auditing Code of the Philippines,” provinces, cities and municipalities may directly purchase vaccines for the protection against the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and secure other goods and services necessary for their storage, transport, distribution, and administration, as the need arises, in the most judicious, economical, and expeditious manner.

SEC. 4. Procurement of COVID-19 Drugs and Vaccines. -

(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the requirement of Phase IV trials for COVID-19 medication and vaccine stipulated in the Universal Health Care Law is hereby waived to expedite the procurement of said medication and vaccine: Provided, That these are recommended and approved by the WHO and/or other internationally recognized health agencies: Provided, further, That the minimum standards for the distribution of the said medication and vaccine shall be determined by the FDA and HTAC, as may be applicable: Provided, further, That notwithstanding any laws to the contrary, provinces, cities, and municipalities may advance payment not exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount if required by the supplier, manufacturer, contractor or distributor, unless otherwise directed by the President, shall also be allowed for the procurement of COVID-19 drugs and vaccines: Provided, finally, That this section shall remain in effect until such time that the Department of Health has fully implemented its COVID-19 program notwithstanding the expiration of this law.

(b) The provinces, cities and municipalities may only purchase COVID-19 vaccines that are registered with the Food and Drug Administration, or issued with an emergency use authorization status. For purposes of transparency, the following information must be posted in a conspicuous place of the procuring local government unit:
   (1) Approved budget for the contract;
   (2) Name of the supplier, manufacturer, contractor, or distributor; and
   (3) Amount of contract as awarded;

The deployment of vaccines in every province, city and municipality must be in accordance with the national guidelines implemented by the Department of Health and the National Task Force Against COVID19.

(c) As an additional exemption to the guidelines of Republic Act No. 9184 or the “Government Procurement Reform Act,” provinces, cities or municipalities are authorized to engage in an advance payment mechanism for purposes of procuring COVID19 vaccines from foreign manufacturers. Following the advance payment of the supply of vaccines, the foreign manufacturer, in consideration of its agreement with the concerned LGU, shall undertake to deliver the supply of vaccines within six months from the perfection of the contract.
Subject to negotiations between the local government unit and foreign manufacturer, an advance payment of not more than fifty (50%) of the total contract price of the supply of COVID-19 vaccines may be allowed under this Act. The availing of the advance payment mechanism is not an exemption to the post-transaction audit that the Commission on Audit must conduct on the LGUs. The Commission on Audit shall submit the post-transaction audit report to both Houses of Congress before the end of the quarter when the transaction is perfected through that mode of payment.

SEC. 5. Creation and Administration of Indemnification Fund for Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI). - In accordance with the State policy of ensuring the safety of individuals who will receive vaccination from COVID-19, an Indemnification Fund shall be created and administered to cover Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI). Along with the monitoring of individuals who will receive the vaccine, Epidemiology and Surveillance Units of the Department of Health shall continuously survey and investigate incidents of AEFI.

SEC. 6. Exemption from Import Duties, Taxes, and Other Fees for the Procurement, Distribution and Administration of Vaccines by the Local Government. - The procurement, importation, storage, transport, distribution, and administration of COVID19 vaccines by the local government units shall be exempt from customs duties, value-added tax, excise tax, and other fees, provided, that the vaccines acquired shall only be used for their residents and constituents, and not for commercial distribution.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within five (5) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Government Procurement Policy Board and the Department of Health, shall issue the special procurement rules for the effective implementation of this Act. The non-promulgation of the rules and regulations provided under this Section shall not prevent the immediate implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

SEC. 8. Construction or Interpretation. - Nothing herein shall be construed as an impairment, restriction, or modification of the provisions of the Constitution. In case the exercise of the powers herein granted conflicts with other statutes, order, rules, or regulations, the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. - If any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. Sunset Clause. - This Act shall remain in full force and effect during the period of the state of calamity and public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic or until September 12, 2021, unless the state of calamity is earlier lifted or extended by the President of the Philippines as circumstances may warrant as provided under Proclamation No. 1021, Series of 2020.
SEC. 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,
Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  

Eighteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 8648  

Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano

AN ACT  
EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT,” AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known and cited as the “Emergency Vaccine Procurement Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. The State protects and promotes the right to health of the people, while ensuring social justice in all phases of national development. The territorial and political subdivisions of the State shall enjoy genuine and meaningful local autonomy to enable them to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and make them more effective partners in the attainment of national goals. To this end, recognizing the impact and effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in our communities all over the country, and likewise cognizant of the role of our local government units (LGUs) to ensure that our people are protected, lives are saved, economic losses are stemmed and mitigated, and to restore public trust and confidence in our institutions, the State has
introduced this mechanism to ensure that the COVID-19 vaccine is procured and
administered in an expeditious, effective, efficient, and equitable manner.


(a) Notwithstanding Section 338 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended,
otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," and Section 88 of
Presidential Decree No.1445, as amended, otherwise known as the
"Government Auditing Code of the Philippines," and any law to the
contrary, the DOH and the NTF, either through themselves jointly or in
cooperation with any national government agency or instrumentality or local
government unit, are authorized to procure COVID-19 vaccines, including
ancillary supplies and services necessary for their storage, transport and
deployment, through negotiated procurement under emergency cases as
defined by Sec. 53(b) of Republic Act No. 9184 and Sections 53 and 53.2 of the
2016 Revised IRR of R.A. No. 9184: Provided, That in the procurement of
COVID-19 vaccines, the NTF shall be authorized to negotiate and approve
the terms and conditions thereof in behalf of the procuring entities, including
but not limited to the price and payment terms: Provided, Further, That after
the negotiations by NTF, the procuring entity is authorized to enter into the
supply agreement, advance market commitment, advance payment, research
investment, purchase order or any similar scheme as may be approved by
the NTF: Provided, Furthermore, That any advance payment, defined as any
payment made before delivery or change in ownership, shall not exceed fifty
percentum (50%) of the total consideration: Provided, Finally, That this
Section shall have retroactive application from January 1, 2021 for the
procurement of vaccine.

(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the requirement of Phase IV trials
for COVID-19 medication and vaccine stipulated in the Universal Health
Care Law is hereby waived to expedite the procurement of said medication
and vaccine: Provided, That these are recommended and approved by the
WHO and/or other internationally recognized health agencies: Provided,
further, That the minimum standards for the distribution of the said
medication and vaccine shall be determined by the FDA and HTAC, as may
be applicable:

(c) Provinces, cities and municipalities (LGUs) may purchase, only in
cooperation with the DOH and NTF against COVID-19, through a
multiparty agreement which shall include the DOH and the relevant
supplier of COVID-19 vaccine or ancillary supplies or services: Provided, That
the LGU shall comply with the terms and conditions of deployment
promulgated by the DOH and the NTF jointly: Provided, Further, That LGUs
may only purchase COVID-19 vaccines that are registered with the Food and
Drug Administration which processes valid certificate of product registration
or emergency use authorization.
(d) The posting requirement for the procurement as authorized in this act shall be made on the GPPB online portal by the procuring local government unit. In the case of procurement of vaccines entered into prior to the effectivity of this Act, the posting shall be made within 30 days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. Creation and Administration of Indemnification Fund for Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI). - In accordance with the State policy of ensuring the safety of individuals who will receive vaccination from COVID-19, an Indemnification Fund shall be created and administered to cover Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI). Along with the monitoring of individuals who will receive the vaccine, Epidemiology and Surveillance Units of the Department of Health shall continuously survey and investigate incidents of AEFI.

SEC. 5. Exemption from Import Duties, Taxes, and Other Fees for the Procurement, Distribution and Administration of Vaccines by the Local Government. - The procurement, importation, storage, transport, distribution, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines by the local government units shall be exempt from customs duties, value-added tax, excise tax, and other fees, provided, that the vaccines acquired shall only be used for their residents and constituents, and not for commercial distribution.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within five (5) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH and the NTF jointly, and with prior consultation with the GPPB and other stakeholders, shall issue guidelines implementing this Act. The non-promulgation of the rules and regulations provided under this Section shall not prevent the immediate implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

SEC. 7. Construction or Interpretation. - Nothing herein shall be construed as an impairment, restriction, or modification of the provisions of the Constitution. In case the exercise of the powers herein granted conflicts with other statutes, order, rules, or regulations, the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. Sunset Clause. - This Act shall remain in full force and effect during the period of the state of calamity and public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic or until June 30, 2022, unless the state of calamity is earlier lifted or extended by the President of the Philippines as circumstances may warrant as provided under Proclamation No. 1021, Series of 2020.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
Approved,
AN ACT
EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES FOR
THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY
PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCUREMENT
REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE “GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT,” AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

SPONSORING COMMITTEE : Committee on Appropriations

Introduced by: Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G.
Romualdez, Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano and Junie E.
Cua

OBJECTIVES

- To expedite the purchase and administration of vaccines for the protection
  against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

- To exempt the local government units (LGUs) from compliance with the
  requirements under R.A. No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform
  Act and other related laws.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Authorizes the provinces, cities and municipalities to directly purchase
  vaccines for the protection against COVID-19, and secure other goods and
  services necessary for their storage, transport, distribution, and
  administration, as the need arises, in the most judicious, economical, and
  expeditious manner, notwithstanding the provisions of R.A. No. 9184, the
  “Government Procurement Reform Act”, Section 338 of R.A. No. 7160, as
  1445, as amended, the “Government Auditing Code of the Philippines”.

- Provides that the LGUs only purchase COVID-19 vaccines that are registered
  with the Food and Drug Administration, or issued with an emergency use
  authorization status.

- Authorizes the LGUs to engage in an advance payment mechanism for
  purposes of procuring COVID-19 vaccines from foreign manufacturers, which
in turn, shall undertake to deliver the supply of vaccines within six months from the perfection of the contract.

- Allows the LGUs to engage in an advance payment to the foreign manufacturer of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the total contract price of the supply of COVID-19 vaccines subject to the COA post-transaction audit.

- Provides for the creation and administration of an Indemnification Fund to cover Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI), and ensure the safety of individuals who will receive vaccination. The Epidemiology and Surveillance Units of the Department of Health shall continue to monitor individuals who will receive the vaccines, and investigate incidents of AEFI.

- Exempts the LGUs from paying customs duties, value-added tax, excise tax, and other fees on the procurement, importation, storage, transport, distribution, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines to be used for the residents and constituents.

- Provides that this Act shall remain in full force and effect during the period of the state of calamity and public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic or until September 12, 2021, unless the state of calamity is earlier lifted or extended by the President of the Philippines as circumstances may warrant as provided under Proclamation No. 1021, series of 2020.

COMMENT(S)/RECOMMENDATION(S)

After having considered the said measures, the Committee recommends that House Bill No. 8648, entitled: "AN ACT EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY PROVIDING EXEMPTIONS TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" in consolidation with House Bill No. 8649, entitled: "AN ACT EXPEDITING THE PURCHASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES FOR THE PROTECTION AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 BY EXEMPTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT", AND OTHER RELATED LAWS" be approved with amendment, subject to style.

RELATED LAWS:

R.A. No. 9184 – Government Procurement Reform Act
P.D. No. 1445 – Government Auditing Code of the Philippines