



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1037

Submitted by the Committee on Health, the Committee on Science and Technology, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Ways and Means on June 1, 2021

Re : House Bill No. 9559

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 6793, 6798, 6808, 6838, 6873, 6913, 6992, 7494, 8934, and 9199

Sponsors : Reps. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D., Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Eric Go Yap, and Joey Sarte Salceda

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Health, the Committee on Science and Technology, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Ways and Means to which were referred House Bill No. 6793, introduced by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

House Bill No. 6798, introduced by Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, entitled:

"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF VIROLOGY LABORATORIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (VIP), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

House Bill No. 6808, introduced by Rep. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D., entitled:

"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

House Bill No. 6838, introduced by Rep. Strike B. Revilla, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 6873, introduced by Rep. Angelo Marcos Barba, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 6913, introduced by Rep. Leonardo L. Babasa, Jr. entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 6992, introduced by Rep. Ron P, Salo, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 7494, introduced by Rep. Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 8934, introduced by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 9199, introduced by Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE VIROLOGY INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (VIP) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 9559 entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

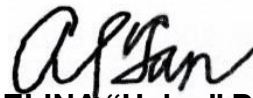
be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 6793, 6798, 6808, 6838, 6873, 6913, 6992, 7494, 8934, and 9199, with Reps. Joey Sarte Salceda, Cheryl P. Deloso-

Montalla, Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D., Strike B. Revilla, Angelo Marcos Barba, Leonardo L. Babasa Jr., Ron Salo, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr., Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Eric Go Yap, Faustino "Inno" Dy V, Domingo C. Rivera, Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya, Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano, Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Christian S. Unabia, Henry R. Villarica, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ann K. Hofer, Eric Go Yap, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Francisco Jose "Bingo" F. Matugas II, Sandro L. Gonzales, Micaela S. Violago, Jose Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Ph.D., Cesar "Jawo" L. Jimenez, Jr., Ronnie L. Ong, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Juliette T. Uy, Alfelito "Alfel" M. Bascug, France L. Castro, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Sergio C. Dagooc, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Sabiniano S. Canama, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Raul "Boboy" C. Tupas, Mark O. Go, Sharon S. Garin, Adriano A. Ebcas, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo, Christopher V.P. De Venecia, Michael B. Gorriceta, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon, Lawrence "Law" H. Fortun, Virgilio S. Lacson, Rico B. Geron, Jose "Ping-Ping" I. Tejada, Divina Grace C. Yu, Loren Legarda, Pablo John F. Garcia, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, and Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:



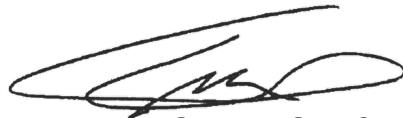
HON. ERICO ARISTOTLE C. AUMENTADO
Chairperson
Committee on Science and Technology



HON. ANGELINA "Helen" D.L. TAN, M.D
Chairperson
Committee on Health



HON. ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations



HON. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA
Chairperson
Committee on Ways and Means

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9559

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 6793, 6798, 6808, 6838, 6873, 6913, 6992, 7494,
8934, and 9199)

Introduced by Representatives Joey Sarte Salceda, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D., Strike B. Revilla, Angelo Marcos Barba, Leonardo L. Babasa Jr., Ron Salo, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr., Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Eric Go Yap, Faustino “Inno” Dy V, Domingo C. Rivera, Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya, Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano, Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Christian S. Unabia, Henry R. Villarica, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Marlyn “Len” B. Alonte, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ann K. Hofer, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Francisco Jose “Bingo” F. Matugas II, Sandro L. Gonzales, Micaela S. Violago, Jose Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez, Ph.D., Cesar “Jawo” L. Jimenez, Jr., Ronnie L. Ong, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Juliette T. Uy, Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, France L. Castro, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Sergio C. Dagooc, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Sabiniano S. Canama, Raul “Bobby” C. Tupas, Mark O. Go, Sharon S. Garin, Adriano A. Ebcas, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Anthony Peter “Onyx” D. Crisologo, Christopher V.P. De Venecia, Michael B. Gorriceta, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon, Lawrence “Law” H. Fortun, Virgilio S. Lacson, Rico B. Geron, Jose “Ping-Ping” I. Tejada, Divina Grace C. Yu, Loren Legarda, Pablo John F. Garcia, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, and Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay

1
2 **AN ACT**
3 **ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
4 **INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
7 *assembled:*
8

9 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the “Virology Institute of the Philippines
10 (VIP) Act.”
11

12 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to
13 health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State recognizes that
14 science and technology is essential for national development and progress.
15

16 To this end, the State shall formulate and implement policies that shall address current health
17 issues, such as the quality and adequacy of health and medical human resources, health
18 institutions, and delivery of health services, and shall give priority to research, the development

1 and promotion of innovations in both technology and services, the use of safe and indigenous
2 health-promoting practices, and their appropriate utilization by the health sector.

3
4 In this regard, the State shall prioritize the establishment of an institute that will conduct in-depth
5 studies on viruses and their potential disease-causing agents that affect people, plants, and
6 animals, in order to provide the scientific bases for the treatment of viral diseases, and for the
7 formulation of policies that shall prevent the transmission of these diseases within the community
8 and national context.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** - This Act seeks to establish a virology institute that shall focus on the
11 following key development areas for virology science and technology applications in plants,
12 animals, and humans:

- 13
- 14 a) Research on viruses using a modern approach such as molecular biology and its
15 application or biotechnology;
 - 16
 - 17 b) Development of diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics;
 - 18
 - 19 c) International cooperation and network of databases of virus infections;
 - 20
 - 21 d) Operation of a virus gene bank, virus genome laboratory, and virus reference
22 laboratory to focus on viruses circulating in the Philippines for disease prevention and
23 epidemiological studies; and,
 - 24
 - 25 e) Operation of a virus high containment laboratory dedicated to the study of highly
26 infectious and highly pathogenic virus.

27
28 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:

- 29
- 30 a) *Bacteriophage* refers to any group of viruses that infect specific bacteria, usually
31 causing their disintegration or dissolution;
 - 32
 - 33 b) *Biosafety* refers to a condition in which the probability of harm, injury, and damage
34 resulting from the intentional and unintentional introduction or use of a regulated
35 article is within acceptable and manageable levels;
 - 36
 - 37 c) *Biosecurity* refers to the strategic and integrated approach to analyzing and managing
38 relevant risks to plant, animal and human life, and health and associated risks for the
39 environment. It is based on recognition of the critical linkages between sectors and the
40 potential for hazards to move within and between sectors, with system-wide
41 consequences;
 - 42
 - 43 d) *Diagnostics* refer to methods, tests, techniques, and tools in viral diagnosis for plants,
44 animals and humans;
 - 45
 - 46 e) *Therapeutics* refer to anti-viral, bacteriophages, nanotechnology treatment approach,
47 nucleic acid-based treatment, remedial agents, drugs for the treatment of viral diseases
48 and infections of plants, animals and humans;
 - 49
 - 50 f) *Vaccine* refers to a product that induces or stimulates active acquired immunity by
51 producing antibodies to a specific infectious agent. It helps the body's immune system
52 to recognize and fight pathogens like viruses or bacteria; and

- 1
2 g) *Virology* refers to the scientific discipline concerned with the study of the biology of
3 viruses and viral diseases of plant, animal, and human medical importance and
4 pandemic potential, including the distribution, pathogenicity, viral cytopathicity,
5 biochemistry, physiology, molecular biology, biotechnology, ecology, tropism,
6 spillover or interspecies transmission, evolution, and clinical aspects of viruses.
7

8 **SEC. 5. Creation of the Virology Science and Technology Institute of the Philippines.** - The
9 Virology Science and Technology Institute of the Philippines (VIP) is hereby created and shall
10 be an attached agency under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for purposes
11 of policy and program coordination to ensure alignment in national policies and priorities.
12

13 The VIP shall serve as the premier research and development institute in the field of virology,
14 encompassing all kinds of viruses and viral diseases in plants, animals and humans. It shall be
15 a venue for scientists, research institutes and other organizations in the Philippines and abroad,
16 to work collaboratively to study viruses of agricultural, industrial, clinical, and environmental
17 importance.
18

19 **SEC. 6. Mandate.** - The VIP shall implement policies, plans, programs, and projects for the
20 development of virology science and technology in the country and the promotion of scientific
21 and technological activities for both the public and private sectors. It shall ensure that the results
22 of these activities are properly applied towards self-reliance and utilized to accelerate economic
23 and social development towards the protection of the citizens and resources.
24

25 **SEC. 7. Powers, Functions, and Duties.** - To accomplish its mandate, the VIP shall have the
26 following powers, functions, and duties:
27

- 28 a) Serve as the lead convener for the formulation of the National Virology Research
29 Agenda, in consultation with all concerned stakeholders, that will encompass
30 researches involving viruses of plant, animal and humans;
31
32 b) Undertake scientific and technological research and development in the field of
33 virology;
34
35 c) Conduct product research and development in the areas of diagnostics, therapeutics,
36 and vaccines in cooperation with the private sector and concerned government
37 agencies;
38
39 d) Promote and undertake the transfer of the results of scientific research and
40 development in collaboration with government agencies, industry, and the academe;
41
42 e) Promote, advocate and oversee virology research ethics, biosafety, and biosecurity;
43
44 f) Develop and maintain an information system on virology science and technology for
45 use by both the public and private sectors;
46
47 g) Develop and implement, together with other entities concerned, programs for
48 strengthening scientific and technological capabilities in virology and relevant
49 disciplines through human resource development, infrastructure, and institution
50 building;
51

- 1 h) Undertake policy research, technology assessment, and other related studies on
2 virology;
3
4 i) Provide laboratory and technical services on virology;
5
6 j) Promote and advocate the national programs on virology science and technology; and,
7
8 k) Establish linkages with local and international partners.
9

10 **SEC. 8. Organizational Structure.** - The VIP shall be headed by a Director and two (2) Deputy
11 Directors for Research and Development, and Support, Policy, and Linkages.

12
13 The VIP shall be composed of the following divisions:

- 14
15 1. Virus Research
16
17 2. Diagnostics and Therapeutics Research
18
19 3. Vaccines Research
20
21 4. Technical Services and Training
22
23 5. Policy, Planning, and Linkages
24
25 6. Finance and Administration.
26

27 The Deputy Director for Research and Development shall oversee the operations of the Virus
28 Research, Diagnostics and Therapeutics Research, and Vaccines Research Divisions. The
29 Deputy Director for Support, Policy, and Linkages shall oversee the operations of the Technical
30 Services and Training, Policy, Planning, and Linkages, and Finance and Administration
31 Divisions.
32

33 The VIP shall have technical and administrative support staff and consultants. The consultants
34 may come from the public and private sectors on a consultancy or contractual basis, and shall be
35 granted honoraria or allowances in accordance with existing rules and regulations.
36

37 Subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the VIP shall
38 determine its organizational structure, create new divisions or units as it may deem necessary,
39 and appoint its officers and employees.
40

41 For this purpose, the VIP shall, in consultation with the DBM, determine the necessary position
42 qualifications and standards for its personnel following civil service laws, rules, and regulations.
43

44 **SEC. 9. Qualifications of the VIP Director and Deputy Directors.** – Upon the
45 recommendation of the Governing Board, the President of the Philippines shall appoint the
46 Director of the VIP who must possess a bachelor’s degree in the field of microbiology and a
47 postgraduate degree in virology, and should have at least three (3) years experience in the field
48 of diagnostic virology. The Director of the VIP shall have the rank of Director IV, Salary Grade
49 (SG)-28, and shall exercise overall responsibility over the activities of the VIP, including the
50 supervision over VIP staff. The Director of the VIP shall report to the President of the Republic
51 of the Philippines and the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology the results of
52 the various diagnostic assays and research studies undertaken by the VIP.

1
2 Each of the Deputy Directors of the VIP shall have a rank of Director III, SG-27. Each must
3 possess a Bachelor's Degree in Microbiology or in a similar field and at least a Master's Degree
4 in Virology.

5
6 **SEC. 10. The Governing Board.** – The Governing Board shall be the policy-making body for
7 the scientific and technological activities of the VIP, composed of the following:

8
9 Chairperson:

10
11 a) Secretary of the DOST;

12
13 Co-Chairpersons:

14
15 b) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);

16
17 c) Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;

18
19 Members:

20
21 d) Undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;

22
23 e) Undersecretary for Technology for Research and Development of the DOST;

24
25 f) Undersecretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) for International Economic
26 Relations;

27
28 g) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED);

29
30 h) Director of the Research Institute for Tropical Medical Medicine (RITM);

31
32 i) Director General of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA);

33
34 j) Director of VIP;

35
36 k) Executive Director of University of the Philippines-National Institute of Health;

37
38 l) Representative from the National Academy of Science and Technology;

39
40 m) Representative from the National Research Council of the Philippines; and

41
42 n) Three (3) representatives from the private sector appointed by the President of the
43 Philippines, as nominated by the Governing Board. These representatives shall have
44 distinguished themselves in the fields of medical virology, genomics, plant virology,
45 animal virology, epidemiology, genetic engineering and other related disciplines.

46
47 The VIP Secretariat shall serve as the Secretariat to the Governing Board.

48
49 **SEC. 11. Transfer of Units, Offices and Functions.** - All offices and units under the DOST
50 system which functions are related to virology shall be transferred to the VIP.

1 All powers, functions, assets, capital, records, funds, receivables, equipment and facilities of the
2 DOST units or its division shall be transferred to the VIP. The DOST shall conduct an audit and
3 inventory of assets, liabilities and human resources of the transferred offices and units under the
4 DOST system to the VIP. All transferred and new employees under the DOST System shall be
5 subject to the qualification standards provided for in the laws, rules and regulations of the Civil
6 Service Commission.

7
8 **SEC. 12. Engagement of Balik Scientists and Foreign Experts.** -The VIP may engage the
9 services of Balik Scientists and foreign experts who shall work together with the local scientists
10 and experts, following the terms of reference and compensation structure in accordance with
11 Republic Act No. 11035 or the “Balik Scientist Program Act” and other existing laws.

12
13 **SEC. 13. International Cooperation.** - The VIP shall establish strategic partnerships with the
14 world’s leading scientists, virology centers and institutes, and conduct innovative and pioneering
15 researches that will advance the frontiers of virology in the country. It may enter into a
16 memorandum of agreement or understanding with international partners, upon the approval of
17 its Governing Board and in compliance with existing laws, rules, regulations and issuances of
18 the DFA. The DFA shall provide legal and other forms of assistance to the VIP.

19
20 The Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the Philippines shall also be
21 consulted upon approval of the Governing Board of the VIP.

22
23 **SEC. 14. Interdepartmental Cooperation.** - The VIP shall collaborate with the DOH,
24 Department of Finance, FDA, RITM and other relevant government agencies, in accessing and
25 mobilizing available information, reports, technical expertise, equipment, materials and supplies
26 as may be required to implement this Act.

27
28 The scientific findings of the VIP shall be integrated in other plans relating to disease control
29 and prevention and in the plans of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases,
30 as created by Executive Order No. 168 s. 2014, or its successor body, for the management of
31 public health emergencies relating to infectious diseases.

32
33 **SEC. 15. Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs).** - The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),
34 the DOH, Public-Private Partnership Center and the DOST shall collaborate in seeking Private-
35 Public Partnerships (PPPs) for the development of new industries, products and services where
36 the VIP shall be the main research and development unit.

37
38 The DOST may also request the assistance of other national and local government agencies in
39 seeking PPPs where the VIP shall be the main research and development unit.

40
41 **SEC. 16. Promotion of Virology Industry.** - The DOST, in partnership with the DTI and the
42 DOH, shall jointly develop an industry roadmap for products and services that can be created,
43 improved, or optimized by research from the VIP. As far as practicable, the industry roadmap
44 shall include the use of local materials in the development of new products. The industry
45 developed or established resulting from the VIP researches shall be included in the national
46 government’s priority industries for incentives.

47
48 **SEC. 17. Promotion of Knowledge-transfer and Research in the Academe.** - The VIP shall
49 promote the creation of hubs and programs for virology research and development in the
50 academe, particularly in state universities and colleges (SUCs). Towards this end, the VIP shall
51 assist SUCs in the creation of virology courses and programs, open internships and scholarships

1 for qualified students of higher education institutions (HEIs), and collaborate with HEIs in the
2 creation of virology research centers.

3
4 The CHED shall collaborate with the DOST in the promotion of HEI-VIP partnerships.

5
6 **SEC. 18. Protection of VIP-developed Intellectual Property.** - The Governing Board of the
7 VIP shall ensure that all technologies developed exclusively by the VIP with full funding from
8 Filipino tax payers shall be protected by intellectual property laws in accordance with Republic
9 Act No. 10055 or the “Technology Transfer Act of 2009” and other applicable laws. Any patent
10 or property right award granted to the VIP shall be held by and in the name of the Philippine
11 Government. In the case of partnerships, where the VIP is a collaborating research partner, the
12 Governing Board shall ensure that technologies co-developed by the VIP shall also be co-
13 attributed to the Philippine Government, with the corresponding intellectual protection.

14
15 **SEC. 19. Procurement of Specialized Materials, Equipment and Services.** - The VIP shall
16 undertake the procurement of specialized materials, equipment, and services to be used by the
17 VIP in its operation and administration, in the most expeditious manner, and adopt the most
18 suitable or appropriate method of procurement that it deems fit based on its identified needs and
19 requirements depending on the existing conditions and requirements that justify the use of a
20 particular alternative modality provided for by Republic Act No. 9184 or the “Government
21 Procurement Reform Act” and its 2016 Revised IRR.

22
23 **SEC. 20. Official Site of VIP.** - A lot with an area equivalent to at least five (5) hectares under
24 the administration of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) within the New
25 Clark Economic Zone in Tarlac Province shall be allocated exclusively for the VIP, its research
26 facilities, and laboratories. The biosafety infrastructure shall be designed based on risk
27 assessment standards and guidelines of the WHO for handling specific pathogens and the
28 establishment of virology laboratories in developing countries.

29
30 **SEC. 21. Entitlement to Magna Carta Benefits.** - Qualified employees of the VIP shall be
31 covered by Republic Act No. 8439, otherwise known as “Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers,
32 Researchers and Other Science and Technology Personnel in Government”.

33
34 **SEC. 22. Virology Research Fund.** - All donations, contributions, grants, bequests, or gifts, in
35 cash or in-kind, received by the VIP from various sources shall be placed into a fund, to be
36 known as the Virology Research Fund and such donations shall be exempt from donor’s tax:
37 *Provided,* That, acceptance of grants, bequests, contributions, and donations from foreign
38 governments shall be subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines, upon the
39 recommendation of the Secretary of DOST and the Secretary of DFA.

40
41 **SEC. 23. Authority to Solicit, Negotiate, and Receive Donations, Grants, Gifts, Legacies,**
42 **Endowments, and Contributions.** – The VIP may solicit, negotiate with, and receive from any
43 public or private domestic or foreign sources legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments,
44 contributions or other transfers of ownership and/or possession of real or personal properties of
45 all kinds in favor and for the benefit of the VIP, which shall all be part of the special account in
46 the general fund.

47
48 **SEC. 24. Tax Exemptions.** – Donations, grants, gifts, endowments, legacies, and contributions
49 used actually, directly and exclusively for the purpose of the VIP shall be exempt from donor’s
50 tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deduction from gross income for purposes of
51 computing the taxable income of the donor, in accordance with Sec. 34 (H)(2)(a) of the National

1 Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended. Likewise, such other transfers of ownership and/or
2 possession of real or personal properties of all kinds shall be exempt from all taxes.
3

4 **SEC. 25. Annual Report.** - The VIP shall submit its annual report to the President and to the
5 Committees on Science and Technology in both Houses of Congress, not later than the 30th of
6 March of every year following the effectivity of this Act. The annual report shall provide a full
7 and detailed account of the status of the implementation of this Act and policy recommendations.
8

9 **SEC. 26. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.** – There shall be a Joint Congressional
10 Oversight Committee on the implementation of this Act, which shall be jointly chaired by the
11 Chairpersons of the Committees on Science and Technology of the Senate and House of
12 Representatives. It shall be composed of the Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Health
13 and Demography, and Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform, the Chairpersons of the
14 Committees on Health and Agriculture and Food of the House of Representatives, and two (2)
15 Members from each House representing the minority who shall be appointed by the Senate
16 President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
17

18 **SEC. 27. Appropriations.** - The initial amount for the implementation of this Act shall be
19 charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOST. Thereafter, the funding of which
20 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
21

22 **SEC. 28. Transitory Provisions.** –
23

- 24 a. The functions and assets of the DOST units enumerated herein shall be transferred to
25 the VIP within three (3) years without need of conveyance and transfer of assignment.
26
- 27 b. To the greatest extent possible and in accordance with existing laws, all employees of
28 the affected offices, agencies and units shall be absorbed by the VIP. Personnel hired
29 on a permanent basis and with appointments attested by the CSC who may be affected
30 by the transition of DOST units to VIP, or who will not be absorbed in the new
31 positions of the new staffing pattern of the different offices in the VIP, shall have the
32 option to:
33
- 34 1. Be transferred to other units or offices within the DOST in accordance with civil
35 service law, rules and regulations; or,
36
 - 37 2. Avail of the applicable retirement benefits and separation incentives as provided
38 under R.A. No. 6656 and other relevant laws.
39
- 40 c. Incumbent DOST officials and employees may be considered to assume positions in
41 the VIP, subject to competency evaluation and CSC regulations.
42
- 43 d. Research grants acquired during the transition of DOST transferred units to VIP shall
44 be utilized solely for the grants' intended purposes for each of the affected units or
45 offices.
46
- 47 e. Existing contracts and agreements entered into by the affected offices with third parties
48 prior to the enactment of this Act shall remain valid.
49

50 **SEC. 29. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DOST Secretary shall, in consultation
51 with DBM, DOH, Civil Service Commission, and other relevant government agencies,

1 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations within one hundred twenty (120) days from the
2 effectivity of this Act.

3
4 **SEC. 30. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or
5 unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

6
7 **SEC. 31. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances
8 or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
9 accordingly.

10
11 **SEC. 32. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
12 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

13
14 *Approved,*

15

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 9559

In substitution of House Bills Numbered 6793, 6798, 6808, 6838, 6873, 6913, 6992, 7494, 8934, 9199

(As approved by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Science and Technology on March 9, 2021, the Committee on Appropriations on May 12, 2021, and the Committee on Ways and Means on May 31, 2021)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIROLOGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Representatives Joey Sarte Salceda, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D., Strike B. Revilla, Angelo Marcos Barba, Leonardo L. Babasa Jr., Ron Salo, Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., Rufus B. Rodriguez, Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr., Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Eric Go Yap, Faustino “Inno” Dy V, Domingo C. Rivera, Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya, Antonio “Tonypet” T. Albano, Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Maximo Y. Dalog, Jr., Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Christian S. Unabia, Henry R. Villarica, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D., Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Marlyn “Len” B. Alonte, Alfred C. Delos Santos, Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Ann K. Hofer, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Francisco Jose “Bingo” F. Matugas II, Sandro L. Gonzales, Micaela S. Violago, Jose Francisco “Kiko” B. Benitez, Ph.D., Cesar “Jawo” L. Jimenez, Jr., Ronnie L. Ong, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Juliette T. Uy, Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, France L. Castro, Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Sergio C. Dagooc, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Estrellita B. Suansing, Horacio P. Suansing, Jr., Sabiniano S. Canama, Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, Mark O. Go, Sharon S. Garin, Adriano A. Ebcas, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Anthony Peter “Onyx” D. Crisologo, Christopher V.P. De Venecia, Michael B. Gorriceta, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon, Lawrence “Law” H. Fortun, Virgilio S. Lacson, Rico B. Geron, Jose “Ping-Ping” I. Tejada, Divina Grace C. Yu, Loren Legarda, Pablo John F. Garcia, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, and Jesus “Bong” C. Suntay

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (Primary)**

Committee Chairperson: **REP. ANGELINA “HELEN” D.L. TAN, M.D.**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (Secondary)**

Committee Chairperson: **REP. ERICO ARISTOTLE C. AUMENTADO**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

Committee Chairperson: **REP. ERIC GO YAP**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Committee Chairperson: **REP. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

OBJECTIVE:

- To develop the Philippines' capability and self-reliance in science and technology, specifically in the field of virology, for public health emergency response through the establishment of an institute that will conduct in-depth studies on viruses and their potential disease-causing agents that affect people, plants, and animals, in order to provide the scientific bases for the treatment of viral diseases, and for the formulation of policies that shall prevent the transmission of these diseases.

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Creates the Virology Science and Technology Institute of the Philippines (VIP) as an attached agency of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for purposes of policy and program coordination to ensure alignment in national policies and priorities.
- Mandates the VIP to implement policies, plans, programs, and projects for the development of virology science and technology in the country and the promotion of scientific and technological activities for both the public and private sectors.
- Grants the VIP the following powers and functions, among others:
 - a) Serve as the lead convener for the formulation of the National Virology Research Agenda, in consultation with all concerned stakeholders, that will encompass researches involving viruses of plant, animal and humans;
 - b) Undertake scientific and technological research and development in the field of virology;
 - c) Conduct product research and development in the areas of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines;
 - d) Promote and undertake the transfer of the results of scientific research and development in collaboration with concerned government agencies, industry, and academe;
 - e) Develop and implement, together with other entities concerned, programs for strengthening scientific and technological capabilities in virology and relevant disciplines through human resource development, infrastructure, and institution building;
 - f) Provide laboratory and technical services on virology; and,
 - g) Establish linkages with local and international partners.
- Establishes the VIP Governing Board, a multi-agency board, which shall be the policy-making body for the scientific and technological activities of the VIP.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 2067, otherwise known as the "Science Act of 1958."
- R.A. No. 8439, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other S & T Personnel in the Government"
- R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act"
- R.A. No. 10055, otherwise known as the "Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009".
- R.A. No. 11035, otherwise known as the "Balik Scientist Act"