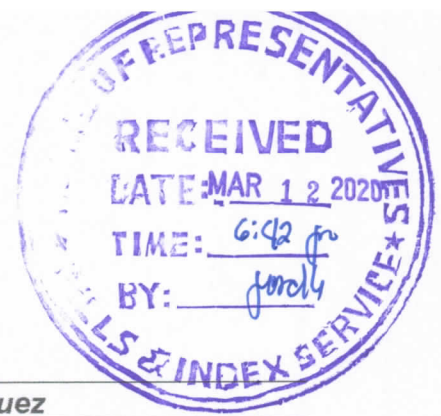


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

House Bill No. 6614

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) first emerged in Wuhan, Hubei, China, in December 2019. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a pandemic. As of 11 March 2020, over 126,000 cases have been confirmed in more than 110 countries and territories, with major outbreaks in mainland China, Italy, South Korea, and Iran. More than 4,600 have died from the disease and 67,000 have recovered.

In the Philippines, the first case of COVID-19, confirmed on January 30, 2020, was a 38-year old woman who arrived from Wuhan. Two days later, the Philippines recorded the first death outside China. As of March 11, 2020, there are already 49 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with hundreds of possible cases where people are being investigated or are under quarantine.

Aside from the health implications, COVID-19 has also affected business and jobs.

Philippine Airlines (PAL) has laid off 300 workers as part of a business restructuring plan to manage losses sustained from travel restrictions to coronavirus-stricken destinations. At least another 300 workers lost their jobs since February as a result of COVID-19 affecting the tourism sector. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has also stated that 66 firms either temporarily closed down or implemented flexible arrangements for workers, mostly in Central Luzon and three other regions known for tourism sites. Further, said 47 companies and/or factories with 4,416 workers had implemented flexible work arrangements, including shorter hours, reduced working days or carrying out forced leaves.

The Philippine manufacturing sector sources most of its raw materials from China considering that it is cheaper. With COVID-19, shipments from China have been greatly affected negatively resulting in our manufacturing sector taking a big hit, with some companies being projected to not be able to recover without help. This is why we need a stimulus program to again jumpstart the manufacturing sector.

According to experts, COVID-19 is making a dent on the global economy and the Philippines will surely take a hit. J.P. Morgan already sees emerging markets in Asia are under threat and stated that "The economic narrative on the COVID-19 outbreak in EM Asia revolves around two causal mechanisms: the impact of the fear factor on behavior, reflected in a decline in demand for travel-related services, hospitality, and discretionary consumption, and the supply-side impact of China's containment measures on manufacturing production and regional supply chains". New York-based think tank Global Source slashed its gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for the Philippines this year to 5.7 percent from 6.2 percent after considering the probable impact of the COVID-19 contagion through various transmission channels, especially tourism, remittances and online gaming.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.

  
RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez*

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House Bill No. 6614

AN ACT

APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF TEN BILLION PESOS TO FUND AN EMERGENCY  
BUSINESS STIMULUS PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON THE BUSINESS SECTOR

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

SECTION 1. The Department of Trade and Industry is hereby mandated to formulate and implement an Emergency Business Stimulus Program for those establishments and businesses affected by COVID-19.

SECTION 2. The amount of Ten Billion Pesos (Php 10,000,000,000) is hereby appropriated to the Department of Trade and Industry to fund said Emergency Business Stimulus Program for those establishments and businesses affected by COVID-19.

SECTION 3. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in English or Filipino in the official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved,