



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 332

Submitted by the Defeat COVID-19 *Ad-Hoc* Committee on MAY 28 2020;

Re: House Bill No. 6864,

Recommending its approval, in substitution of House Bill No. 6623.

Sponsors: Reps. Cayetano (A.P.), Romualdez (F.) Villafuerte, Jr., and Duterte,

Mr. Speaker:

The Defeat COVID-19 *Ad Hoc* Committee to which was referred House Bill No. 6623, introduced by Reps. Cayetano (A.P.), Villafuerte, Jr., Duterte, Legarda, Romualdez (F.M.), Yap (E.), Cayetano (M.L.), Defensor (M), Sy-Alvarado, entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING POLICIES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE NEW NORMAL FOR
THE WORKPLACE AND PUBLIC SPACES AND INSTITUTING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

has considered the same and recommends the approval of House Bill No. 6864,
entitled:

“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH
SAFEGUARDS FOR THE BETTER NORMAL IN THE WORKPLACE, PUBLIC
PLACES AND COMMUNITIES TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY FROM
COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

in substitution of House Bill No. 6623, with Reps. Cayetano (A.P.), Villafuerte, Jr.,
Duterte, Legarda, Romualdez (F.M.), Yap (E.), Cayetano (M.L.), Defensor (M), Sy-

Alvarado, Daza, Lacson, Arroyo, Sarmiento, Hofer, Violago, Eriguel, Ong (R.), Vergara, Vargas-Alfonso, Rodriguez, Herrera-Dy, Labadlabad, Deloso-Montalla, Abueg-Zaldivar, Pimentel, Nava, Sagarbarria, Ebcas, Mariano-Hernandez, Dujali, Babasa, Jr., Fariñas (R.Ch.), Unabia, Cabredo, Ong, Jr. (L.), Peña, Jr., Guya, De Jesus, Dagooc, Villanueva (E.), Rivera, Yu, Yap (V.), and Silverio as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ

Co-Chairperson
Defeat COVID-19 *Ad-Hoc* Committee



ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 6864

Introduced by Reps. Cayetano (A.P.), Villafuerte, Jr., Duterte, Legarda, Romualdez (F.M.), Yap (E.), Cayetano (M.L.), Defensor (M), Sy-Alvarado, Daza, Lacson, Arroyo, Sarmiento, Hofer, Violago, Eriguel, Ong (R.), Vergara, Vargas-Alfonso, Rodriguez, Herrera-Dy, Labadlabad, Deloso-Montalla, Abueg-Zaldivar, Pimentel, Nava, Sagarbarria, Ebcas, Mariano-Hernandez, Dujali, Babasa, Jr., Fariñas (R.Ch.), Unabia, Cabredo, Ong, Jr. (L.), Peña, Jr., Guya, De Jesus, Dagooc, Villanueva (E.), Rivera, Yu, Yap (V.), Silverio, Gonzales, Jr. (A.), Acosta-Alba and" Abano

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING POLICIES, REGULATIONS, AND PUBLIC HEALTH
SAFEGUARDS FOR THE BETTER NORMAL IN THE WORKPLACE, PUBLIC
PLACES AND COMMUNITIES TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY FROM
THE CORONA VIRUS DISEASE-19 (COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

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

1 SECTION I. **Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Better Normal for the
2 Workplace, Communities and Public Spaces Act of 2020".

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to protect and
4 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.
5 The State shall also protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and
6 healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

7 Towards this end, the State shall:

- a) Adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to public health policies and regulations during a pandemic, thus, ensuring the overall well-being of individuals, communities and natural ecosystems;
- b) Institute appropriate public health, safety, and security measures to stem the transmission of the corona virus disease-19 (COVID-19) or similar diseases that may result in any kind of pandemic;
- c) Regulate, institute, and establish standards and protocols that would simultaneously protect the vulnerable from COVID-19 and prevent its transmission;
- d) Pursue the restoration of livelihood opportunities and sources of income for all, especially the poor, in the vent of widespread disease outbreak and the resulting slowdown of economic activity, and building adaptive capacity and resilience for future shocks;
- e) Pursue universal broadband access for all to ensure a better normal in recognition of the crucial role of a strong information and communications technology (ICT) system to close the digital divide and that the need for modern and innovative ICT cuts across all sectors of society;
- f) Ensure that pandemic recovery will lead to a greener, resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future, hence, recovery needs should be addressed with long-term sustainability goals; and
- g) Give importance to other aspects of well-being of the people based on the Gross National Happiness indicators, namely, equitable and sustainable socio-economic development, the preservation and promotion of cultural values, the conservation of the natural environment, and the establishment of good governance.

1 SEC. 3. ***Objectives.*** - This Act shall have the following objectives:

- 2 a) Define and allocate roles, responsibilities, and obligations across key
3 sectors of the society that shall be heavily involved in the implementation
4 of specific and applicable measures, namely, the National Government and
5 its instrumentalities, local government, private sector, and individual Filipino
6 citizens;
- 7 b) Identify standards and protocols in the management of physical spaces,
8 both publicly-owned and -managed, or privately-owned but are designated
9 communal spaces, and prescribe the allowed and prohibited activities
10 therein as well as behaviors expected and required of the citizens while
11 utilizing such physical spaces;
- 12 c) Facilitate the development of the necessary systems and infrastructure and
13 the enhancement of existing ones so as to ensure that the ICT needs of the
14 better normal are accessible to all, making it possible for people and
15 organizations to practice appropriate behavior and decisions as well as for
16 relevant government agencies to implement relevant, effective, and timely
17 information dissemination;
- 18 d) Establish systems of accountability for failure to comply with the obligations
19 and expectations prescribed under this Act;
- 20 e) Provide inclusive operational parameters, guidelines, and
21 recommendations for a better way of life until such time that the threat of
22 COVID-19 virus and other similar diseases that caused the occurrence of a
23 pandemic is effectively contained;
- 24 f) Mitigate, if not contain, the transmission of the virus and undertake
25 measures to prevent the overburdening of the public healthcare system;

- 1 g) Continue health promotion and behavior-enhancing measures in all levels
2 of government and the private sector; and,
3 h) Accelerate transformational change to restore the balance between human,
4 socio-economic and natural systems, and reduce vulnerability to future
5 crises caused by climate change, natural hazards and man-made disasters.

6 SEC. 4. **Scope of the Act.** - This Act shall provide the strategies and measures
7 that shall be implemented so that economic and social activities can proceed in a
8 manner that ensures public health, safety, and security during an epidemic, and until
9 such time that the same is declared eradicated by the authorized National
10 Government agency or agencies of the government.

11 The organization, operation, and activities in workplaces, communities, and
12 public spaces shall be governed by the provisions of this Act.

13 SEC. 5. **Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:

- 14 a) *Better normal*, in the context of recovery from an epidemic or pandemic
15 refers to transformative behaviors and interventions informed by science,
16 that address the underlying vulnerabilities of people and communities that
17 the epidemic or pandemic has highlighted and fosters a just and equitable
18 transition to a climate-resilient, inclusive and sustainable future;
- 19 b) *Better Normal Permit* refers to the permit or clearance issued by the local
20 government unit (LGU) for the conduct of activities that essentially require
21 physical gathering of people during the time of an epidemic or pandemic;
- 22 c) *Better Normal Workforce and Workplace Management Plan*, herein
23 referred to as the Management Plan, refers to the management plan of all
24 public and private sector entities that conforms to the prescribed measures
25 and protocols under this Act to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus

1 and other kinds of viruses that may be transmitted through contact in the
2 workplace;

- 3 d) *Government-managed public spaces* refer to a government or public
4 property used by the public under zoning or similar regulatory
5 arrangements, and other spaces used as National Government offices,
6 offices of LGUs, public zoos, public libraries, roads, streets, avenues,
7 alleys, public markets, parks, plazas, covered courts, promenades,
8 gymnasiums, arenas, amusement and recreation centers, among others,
9 that are publicly managed or owned by the government;
- 10 e) *Pandemic* refers to an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide
11 geographic area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the
12 population;
- 13 f) *Privately-managed public spaces* refer to spaces within the perimeter or
14 premises of a privately-owned real estate or property used by the public
15 under zoning or similar regulatory arrangements, which include, among
16 others, shopping malls, hotels, open spaces and common areas in
17 subdivisions and condominiums;
- 18 g) *Privately organized gatherings* refer to those planned or spontaneous
19 human, political, social, cultural, economic, religious and sports gatherings
20 such as concerts, events, celebrations, parties, team-buildings, seminars,
21 conferences, trainings, conventions, religious mass and sacraments,
22 retreats, funerals, electoral campaigns, inductions, ceremonies, film show
23 makings, television shows, sports, and other related forms of recreations.
- 24 h) *Profiling* refers to the process of discovering core relations between data
25 and databases that can be used to identify and represent a subject

- 1 individual or a group of individuals the application of a set of correlated data
2 to an individual to represent a subject, or to identify a group or category;
- 3 i) *Public spaces* refer to streets, alleys, public parks, museums, cultural and
4 heritage spaces, schools, buildings, malls, restaurants, transportation
5 terminals, public markets, areas used as evacuation centers, government
6 offices, public utility vehicles as well as private vehicles covered by
7 applicaton-based transport network services, and other recreational or
8 leisure places such as cinema halls, theaters, cockpits, and spas; and,
- 9 j) *Workplace* refers to a place where work is carried out for a business or
10 undertaking and includes any place where a worker goes, or is likely to be,
11 while carrying out a work-related task.

12 SEC. 6. ***Standards for Better Normal.*** – In order to stem the transmission of
13 COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, and protect the people from such diseases,
14 the following standards for the better normal shall be observed:

15 **A. Universal and Mandatory Health and Safety Measures**

- 16 1) Strict observance by the general public of basic personal hygiene and instilling
17 in the general populace by the government, in cooperation with the private
18 sector, on awareness of the risks of infection and possible reinfection of the
19 disease;
- 20 2) Mandatory wearing by the general public of face masks, earloop masks,
21 indigenous, reusable or do-it-yourself masks, face shields, handkerchiefs, or
22 such other protective material or equipment that effectively lessen the
23 transmission of the COVID-19 virus whenever they are in workplace, public
24 places, and communities: *Provided*, That the government shall endeavor to
25 implement the free distribution of masks to the general public to guarantee the

- full cooperation of every citizen: *Provided* further, That the government shall endeavor to integrate circular economy strategies in the procurement of materials or the development of mechanisms for hygiene and sanitation;
- 3) Establishment and maintenance of the owners, managers, or administrators of public spaces, work places and other places frequented by the public of hand washing facilities or sanitizing stations thereat;
- 4) Observation by the public of physical distancing measured at least one (1) meter between individuals whenever in public spaces and in the workplace;
- 5) The conduct of temperature reading of persons by the owners, managers, or administrators of workplaces and in all enclosed, semi-enclosed, and open areas where two or more people shall gather;
- 6) The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with other government agencies and the private sector, shall conduct an information and educational campaign utilizing traditional and online media to disseminate relevant medical and health information, provide updates on local cases and initiatives of the government: *Provided*, That all government agencies are directed to create a communication plan for the better normal to articulate the policies and interventions to be adopted by the agencies for the information and compliance of their employees, including the placement of relevant on-site signages and online information materials which will serve as reminders to observe physical distancing, practice regular handwashing, and to frequently clean and sanitize surroundings;
- 7) Local chief executives of LGUs which are considered as containment zones or critical zones for the transmission of COVID-19 shall establish testing centers and procure COVID-19 testing kits, personal protective equipment (PPEs), and

such other necessary equipment and supplies to be used for the conduct of mass-testing of the population in their respective jurisdictions, including the establishment of drive-through testing centers, and other contactless modes of testing for the detection of the COVID-19 or other infectious diseases;

8) The DOH, with assistance from LGUs, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Department of National Defense (DND), shall conduct tracing of individuals who have had contact with or have been exposed to a person who has been confirmed positive for the COVID-19 or similar infectious diseases. The DOH shall also conduct contact tracing for individuals suspected of or probably afflicted with the disease to ensure prompt containment of the disease;

9) The DOH shall establish and manage government-operated and -maintained quarantine facilities for individuals who are suspected of being infected or have tested positive for COVID-19 or other infectious diseases and who, pursuant to the guidelines formulated by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and/or as prescribed under DOH regulations, should undergo mandatory quarantine, including those who are not able to observe quarantine protocols in their respective places of residences;

10) Local chief executives of LGUs shall continuously implement existing measures, including quarantine measures, in dealing with residents or any other individual in the locality manifesting COVID-19 symptoms, or who has been classified as a suspect, probable, or a confirmed case of COVID-19 infection by authorized testing or medical facilities;

- 1 11)The National Government shall establish and implement infection prevention
2 and control protocol, biosafety and waste management measures;
- 3 12)Local chief executives of LGUs shall continuously monitor the level of
4 transmission among residents in their jurisdiction; *Provided*, That the standards
5 provided in Republic Act (RA) No. 10173, also known as the "Data Privacy Act
6 of 2012", as well as legal and ethical standards, and existing DOH guidelines
7 are observed and complied with;
- 8 13)The National Government shall recognize the vulnerabilities of certain sectors
9 of the population such as the elderly, pregnant, children and persons deprived
10 of liberty, and shall provide safeguards and assistance to them, including
11 access to mental and psychological health services; and
- 12 14)Government offices and the owners, managers, or administrators of
13 workplaces and other places frequented by the public shall implement regular
14 cleaning and disinfection of transport conveyances, terminals and similar
15 facilities including elevators and escalators, particularly frequently touched
16 surfaces thereat;

17 **B. Management of Spaces**

- 18 1) Public gatherings are prohibited subject to the exceptions as may be provided
19 under the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act;
- 20 2) LGUs shall regulate public gatherings as well as the flow of people in
21 government-managed public spaces, subject to the guidelines set in the IRR
22 of this Act and, if necessary, issue a Better Normal Permit to provide the
23 limitations on such public gathering in order to prevent disease transmission:
24 *Provided*, That activities of agencies of the National Government or their
25 provincial or regional offices involved in the delivery of services or distribution

1 of all forms of public assistance or the facilitation thereof shall in no way be
2 impeded nor be required a permit from any government authority: *Provided,*
3 *further,* That gatherings under this category shall observe the Universal and
4 Mandatory Safety Measures enumerated in paragraph (A) of this Section:
5 *Provided, furthermore,* That LGUs shall provide the national, regional, and
6 provincial agencies and their attached offices the necessary assistance to
7 carry out their activities requiring the presence or participation of a significant
8 number of the population: *Provided, finally,* That exceptions to these
9 prohibitions, intended for public purpose or interest, shall be provided by the
10 IRR of this Act;

- 11 3) Privately-organized gatherings in privately-managed spaces shall comply with
12 the guidelines set forth in the IRR of this Act, including the need to apply for a
13 Better Normal Permit from the concerned LGU, if necessary: *Provided,* That
14 such guidelines shall consider the nature of the gathering, number of expected
15 attendees, size of the venue, and other reasonable parameters that will ensure
16 compliance with physical distancing and other measures to prevent
17 transmission of the virus. The Universal and Mandatory Safety Measures
18 prescribed under this Act which are applicable to gatherings shall be complied
19 with at all times during a privately-organized gathering;
- 20 4) Land use planning and zoning shall be strictly observed in the implementation
21 of this Act;
- 22 5) To increase spaces in facilities that are allowed to reopen to accommodate
23 social distancing guidelines and to promote health-seeking behavior, no
24 designated smoking areas shall be allowed henceforth. RA No. 9211, also

1 known as the "Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003", is hereby amended for this
2 purpose; and

3 6) Management of spaces shall likewise include the establishment of urban
4 gardens, and green spaces not only for people to enjoy a clean and healthy
5 environment, but also to enable them to grow their own sources of food and
6 nutrition.

7 **C. Management of Public Transportation**

8 1) The appropriate government agencies shall monitor the implementation of the
9 Universal and Mandatory Safety Measures in the management of public
10 transportation terminals and facilities, including queuing or ticketing lines,
11 ticketing offices, as well as the interiors of public utility vehicles, mass
12 transportations, and private vehicles covered by app-based transportation
13 network services, and by their respective drivers, conductors and passengers;

14 2) The operation of motorcycle taxis shall remain suspended to prevent the
15 spread of the virus through shared helmets and close physical contact between
16 passengers and drivers;

17 3) Passengers in all types of public transportation vehicles shall be required to
18 sanitize their hands prior to boarding the vehicle, shall be seated a seat apart
19 and wear face masks while inside the vehicle;

20 4) Contact-less payment mechanisms shall be promoted such as the use of
21 money trays and automatic fare collection systems to minimize the risk of
22 transmission of the virus;

23 5) Agencies and authorities tasked to manage transport hubs such as airports,
24 ports, harbors, and the like shall coordinate with the concerned LGUs in the

1 implementation of the Universal and Mandatory Safety Measures herein
2 provided and shall consider the following special measures:

- 3 i. Establishment of public health corridors in airports and ports;
- 4 ii. Mandatory body temperature reading for all arriving and departing
5 passengers;
- 6 iii. Mandatory quarantine at home or in an authorized government facility
7 for all arriving passengers;
- 8 iv. Mandatory collection of data for the maintenance of a database of
9 information for contact-tracing purposes only;
- 10 v. Thorough sanitizing and disinfection of all arriving and departing
11 vessels;
- 12 vi. Mandatory regular testing of all employees, personnel, staff, and crew
13 attached to vessels and those who have assisted passengers; and,
- 14 vii. Mandatory conduct of rapid testing for arriving and departing
15 passengers.

16 6) National Government authorities in coordination with the stakeholders of the
17 transport sector shall establish dedicated lanes along roads, avenues,
18 highways, and other transport infrastructure networks to give priority to
19 healthcare, emergency, peace and order, and supply-chain vehicles
20 transporting individuals, goods, equipment, or those used in the pursuit of
21 services deemed essential and critical; and

22 7) LGUs and appropriate government development authorities having
23 jurisdiction over roadways or highways, in coordination with the Department
24 of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), shall create green lanes within three
25 (3) months from the effectivity of this Act for the use of motorcycles, scooters,

1 bicycles, and similar micromobile devices to reduce the public's dependence
2 on mass or public transportation: *Provided*, That passengers and users of the
3 green lanes shall observe prescribed speed limits set by the LGUs or the
4 development authority.

5 D. Better Normal for Schools and Education Institutions

- 6 1) The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher
7 Education (CHED) are authorized to determine the start of the academic year
8 2020 to 2021 for all public and private schools, state universities and colleges
9 (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LUCs), private colleges and
10 universities, and other learning institutions;
- 11 2) All public and private education institutions including private and public
12 universities and colleges shall formulate, develop and adopt a flexible learning
13 approach which is designed to meet students' needs, capabilities of faculty
14 members and conditions on the ground, without prejudice to the adoption of
15 measures for online learning;
- 16 3) The DepEd shall develop, implement and promote a flexible learning program
17 for K-12 students in all public and private schools, taking into consideration the
18 capability of the school and its teachers in delivering such program, and the
19 accessibility of learning materials, either physical or electronic, to the students.
20 The flexible learning program shall be geared towards limiting physical contact
21 among the school population and minimizing the impact on the potential for
22 learning and instruction between students and teachers: *Provided*, That
23 students shall not be penalized for their inability to access and participate in
24 electronic or digital means of learning due to limitations in connectivity or
25 unavailability of equipment: *Provided, further*, That, television (TV) and radio

1 programs done in partnership between DepEd, National Council for Children
2 Television, Early Childhood Community Development Center, higher
3 education institutions (HEIs) and pertinent cooperatives and organizations and
4 with the assistance of licensed TV and radio broadcast stations shall serve as
5 alternative platforms for learning;

- 6 4) The CHED shall monitor the implementation of flexible learning programs for
7 all HEIs, SUCs and LCUs. HEIs shall continue to exercise academic freedom
8 and levels of autonomy in the governance of their own academic affairs:
9 *Provided*, That students shall not be penalized for their inability to access or
10 participate in electronic or digital means of learning due to limitations in
11 connectivity or unavailability of equipment;

- 12 5) The National Government shall allocate funding for the research, training of
13 faculty, curriculum development, monitoring and evaluating, benchmarking,
14 and the development of systems for learning continuity during times of crisis
15 such as the occurrence of a pandemic. Such funding shall be made available
16 by the National Government, from the existing budgetary allocation for the K-
17 12 and other similar programs, and made available to higher education
18 institutions, including those organized as stock corporations, local research
19 institutes, academic organizations, LGUs, school boards, and individual
20 researchers through an application process to be prescribed by the DepEd and
21 the CHED: *Provided*, That for the benefit of learners who have hearing
22 impairment, the full participation of deaf linguistics organizations and deaf
23 cooperatives shall be required in the development of learning materials;

- 24 6) Subject to consultation with the DepEd, CHED, and the Technical Education
25 and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), all face-to-face classes and group

1 school activities, including sports, athletics, cultural, and academic meets,
2 exhibitions, competitions as well as extra-curricular field or exposure trips and
3 student exchanges shall remain suspended unless otherwise officially declared
4 permissible by competent authorities without prejudice to the academic
5 freedom and levels of autonomy enjoyed by HEIs in the management and
6 conduct of their academic affairs;

7) Digital learning shall be promoted by the National Government in coordination
8 with telecommunications companies and internet service providers; and,

9) Public and private education institutions including private colleges and
10 universities and other accredited learning and training institutions shall
11 prioritize the establishment of online platforms for the Continuing Professional
12 Development (CPD) and Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE)
13 programs.

14 **E. Management of Cultural and Heritage Spaces**

15 Digital platforms shall be used to consolidate resources and cultural forms
16 in public spaces, to create an archive of oral histories, visual ethnographies,
17 philosophical discourse, that shall be made available to the public for virtual
18 appreciation. Online promotion of cultural programs, performances, exhibitions
19 and enhancement of existing public arts and monuments shall be highly
20 encouraged.

21 **F. Better Normal for Private Commercial and Industrial Workplaces**

22 1) The National Government, in coordination with the LGUs, shall maintain
23 databases on all private commercial, industrial, and other businesses
24 operating in their areas of jurisdiction. The database shall include information
25 such as the number of employees, working hours, workspace conditions, office

- 1 floor areas, and other information necessary to ensure compliance with
2 physical distancing and other protocols prescribed by this Act to prevent the
3 transmission of COVID-19 virus;
- 4 2) All private commercial, industrial, and other forms of businesses shall be
5 required to submit a Management Plan to the concerned LGU which shall
6 determine the said business's compliance with the necessary safeguards and
7 the Universal Safety Measures provided under this Act: *Provided*, That the
8 review of all Management Plans shall be conducted promptly upon submission
9 to allow establishments to resume operations as soon as possible: *Provided*
10 *further*, That the Management Plan shall integrate circular economy strategies
11 in the procurement of materials or the development of mechanisms for hygiene
12 and sanitation: *Provided, furthermore*, That LGUs are authorized to conduct
13 periodic inspection of private commercial, industrial and other businesses
14 operating within their territorial jurisdiction to ensure compliance of these
15 businesses with the Universal and Mandatory Safety Measures and other
16 standards and protocols prescribed under this Act and its IRR; and,
- 17 3) All private commercial, industrial and other businesses shall implement their
18 Management Plan and shall incorporate alternative work arrangements such
19 as work-from-home schemes in applicable industries to lessen by at least fifty
20 percent (50%) the number of employees required to report to their workplaces
21 physically. For the private sector, the Department of Labor and Employment
22 (DOLE) shall standardize the template for and the required contents of the said
23 Management Plan. The LGUs shall be in charge of monitoring the
24 implementation of this provision.

25 G. Better Normal Governance Measures

1 1) Various forms of electronic governance or e-governance mechanisms shall be
2 established to facilitate continuous and efficient transactions between and
3 among government agencies, and the private sector, as well as in the delivery
4 of socio-economic services including the utilization of online payment system,
5 appointment-based transactions, the Philippine national public key
6 infrastructure, electronic business permits and licensing systems, electronic
7 procurement system, electronic management systems for human resources,
8 records, accounting, as well as other ICT- enabled systems and solutions for
9 effective and efficient e-governance.

10 An internet based electronic payment facility and gateway, such as e-
11 money and similar platforms, shall be utilized in collecting taxes, fees, tolls,
12 imposts, and other revenues and in paying for goods, services, and other
13 disbursements. Government offices and government-owned and -controlled
14 corporations (GOCCs) that are already partially applying this kind of digitized
15 payment mechanism must improve the current system used in order to
16 accommodate the increase in the number of transactions. The government
17 shall establish online payment systems and may partner with payment
18 solutions providers.

19 2) Services that are needed to facilitate business registration-related transactions
20 shall be made efficient by integrating all agencies involved in business
21 registration such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Securities
22 and Exchange Commission (SEC), Cooperative Development Authority
23 (CDA), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Social Security System (SSS),
24 Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-Ibig), Philippine Health Insurance
25 Corporation (Philhealth), LGUs, and other permit and license issuing agencies.

- 1 3) The *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* shall accelerate the adoption by all payment
2 service providers of the National Quick Response (QR) Code standard to
3 hasten the interoperability of QR-driven payment services and eliminate the
4 need for merchants and clients to maintain several accounts.
- 5 4) A government online procurement system that encompasses all procurement
6 processes involving bidding, contract agreements, and payment for services
7 or supplies, and which shall contain a tracking and customer service
8 mechanism shall also be developed.
- 9 5) Where applicable, the relevant provisions of RA No. 11032, or the Ease of
10 Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, shall
11 supplement the provisions of this Act.

12 **H. Other Aspects of Better Normal**

- 13 1) The government shall provide important information related to health
14 emergencies to persons with disabilities (PWDs) and institutionalize assistive
15 mechanisms for them such as requiring sign interpretation in TV news
16 broadcasts and live streamed public information programs and content. In
17 relation thereto, a system of standards for assistive mechanisms for PWDs
18 shall be planned, financed, implemented, and monitored. For purposes of this
19 Act, individuals who assist PWDs such as sign language interpreters shall be
20 recognized as front liners providing essential services;
- 21 2) The government must likewise provide sufficient support for culture bearers
22 and masters, and those engaged in crafts making such as weaving and carving.
- 23 3) Emergency cash subsidies shall be given to artists and cultural performers,
24 such as those in the performing arts, cinema, literature, visual arts,

1 contemporary arts or expressions, audiovisual and multimedia, and scholars,
2 critics, curators, and cultural workers.

3 4) The local chief executives of LGUs, in coordination with the private sector, shall
4 implement, monitor and maintain a planned schedule for people traveling to
5 and from their respective workplaces or residences located in the LGU and if
6 possible or applicable, the charter of various means of transportation for the
7 use of residents and workers to and from their respective destinations.

8 5) There shall be a continuous implementation of alternative work arrangements
9 in the public and private sectors based on the nature of work of an employee,
10 the workplace and its location or place, and its distance to and from the
11 residences of employees.

12 6) The implementation of Republic Act No. 9003, also known as the "Ecological
13 Solid Waste Management Act of 2000", in relation to the proper disposal and
14 management of wastes resulting from activities related to the implementation
15 of this Act shall be strictly monitored: *Provided*, That the National Government
16 shall implement regulations on the manufacture and importation, use, recycling
17 of all single-use plastics used in trade or commerce in business enterprises, as
18 well as by retailers and consumers: *Provided, further*, That the government
19 shall conduct a research and develop single-use plastic packaging alternatives
20 and provide incentives to plastic industries that will shift to other manufacturing
21 activities.

22 7) Adaptation measures such as the establishment of multi-hazard early warning
23 systems that reach out the last mile, capacity building of national experts,
24 construction of rainwater harvesters in government owned- and managed
25 buildings and spaces, and the establishment of seedbanks and vegetable

- 1 gardens in available open spaces in local communities, rooftops of
2 government-owned and -managed buildings shall be implemented
- 3 8) The National Government, through relevant government agencies such as the
4 DICT, DTI, DILG, in accordance with their respective mandates, and with the
5 support of the private sector, shall plan for and undertake universal
6 digitalization as well as promote and implement programs and innovations to
7 accelerate public access and connectivity including the progressive roll-out of
8 the National Broadband Program and the Free Public Internet Access Program
9 down to the barangay level.
- 10 9) The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), National Disaster Risk Reduction and
11 Management Council (NDRRMC), DILG through the Persons with Disabilities
12 Affairs Offices (PDAOs), and DOH shall gather, compile, update, and publish
13 online, disaggregated demographic and mapping data on deaf and all other
14 persons with disabilities nationwide in the context of the pandemic.
- 15 10) In compliance with Section 10 of RA No. 11106, or the "Filipino Sign Language
16 Act", ensure the continued placement of TV insets in news and public affairs
17 programs through video remote interpreting on TV as well as online streaming
18 platforms, and promote as well deaf-produced/-signed pandemic and
19 quarantine related public information.
- 20 SEC. 7. ***Role of LGUs.*** - LGUs shall, in their respective territorial jurisdictions,
21 be primarily responsible for instituting localized policies and legislation in accordance
22 with the better normal measures prescribed under Section 6 hereof and other related
23 directives and issuances of the National Government. Local governments must ensure
24 that their policy-making process shall involve the participation of all stakeholders.
25 Consultations with the communities shall be pursued as a matter of course to ensure

- 1 that such policies respond properly to the needs of the people. In this regard, the LGUs
- 2 shall have the following responsibilities:

- a) Ensure the proper implementation of the provisions of this Act within their respective territorial jurisdiction;
 - b) Enact the necessary and appropriate ordinance for the local implementation of the provisions of this Act, including the promotion of low-contact payment mechanisms such as the use of electronic money (e-money) as a medium of exchange in collecting taxes, fees, tolls, imposts, and other revenues and in paying for goods, services, and other disbursements:
Provided, That the LGU shall make the necessary arrangements with the relevant government agencies and government-recognized regulating entities to acquire e-money payment capability;
 - c) Require, by ordinance, merchants or business entities in their localities to obtain and maintain e-money payment system capability that is accessible by phone or other access devices, as a prerequisite for the issuance of a Better Normal Permit, or the approval of new or renewal of business permits;
 - d) Create a Better Normal Task Force to monitor the compliance of the private businesses and offices with the provisions of this Act;
 - e) Prior to the issuance of a Better Normal Permit for a physical gathering, orient the applicant thereof of the guidelines on the management of spaces as provided in Section 6 (B) of this Act, which shall be observed throughout the entire gathering;
 - f) In cooperation or with the assistance of the Land Transportation Office (LTO), initiate information campaigns on public transportation schemes in their localities in accordance with Section 6 (C) of this Act;

- 1 g) Establish the Inter-Local Government Unit Task Force as authorized by
2 and in accordance with the appropriate guidelines of the DILG;
- 3 h) In coordination with the DICT, foster, support and facilitate the effective
4 roll-out of free wi-fi access points and other infrastructure needed for the
5 National Broadband Program. The LGUs shall likewise foster, support, and
6 facilitate the construction of common towers and other passive
7 telecommunication infrastructure in strategic locations for the use of
8 telecommunications service providers to propagate connectivity and provide
9 quality telecommunications services to their constituents in accordance with
10 existing laws, and the policies and standards set by the DICT;
- 11 i) In coordination with DOH, provide immediate assistance to all reported
12 COVID-confirmed residents and patients;
- 13 j) In coordination with the DOH, establish and maintain a functional local
14 epidemiology and surveillance unit pursuant to RA No. 11332, also known as
15 the "*Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public*
16 *Health Concern Act*". In accordance with Section 6(A) of this Act, the LGU shall
17 specify the conduct of contact tracing systems for suspect, probable, and
18 confirmed COVID-19 cases, or other similar diseases, to avoid delay in contact
19 tracing and to ensure the prompt management and containment of the disease.
20 In all cases, the LGU shall ensure that disease surveillance and contact tracing
21 procedures are in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012;
- 22 k) In coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA), plan and
23 implement a resilient and local food supply system that: (1) involves a shorter,
24 more diversified food supply chain that is resilient to future shocks; (2) ensures
25 food access shall remain at, or swiftly returns to, pre-pandemic levels, and, (3)

1 mitigates the impact on vulnerable food systems actors, including small-holder
2 producers, informal traders, and low-income and marginalized groups. The
3 plan shall promote the establishment of community food gardens, local food
4 production and shorter supply chains, the strengthening of urban-rural
5 linkages, and the promotion of diversity in the food supply chain and channels
6 of distribution.

7 I) Establish and manage the use of cultural spaces to serve as venues
8 and facilities for keeping the creativity of the people alive, affording people to
9 exercise their freedom of expression, enhancing psycho-spiritual health, and
10 providing them opportunities for meaningful participation in community life,
11 even while observing the universal mandatory standards and protocols during
12 the time of a pandemic: *Provided*, That such cultural space must meet the
13 minimum criteria of facilities or landscapes that are open to the public: *Provided*
14 *further*, That cultural spaces are adaptable, do not compromise on quality, able
15 to enhance a sense of community, and are inclusive, accessible and
16 welcoming.

17 **SEC. 8. *Role of the Private Sector –***

- 18 a) All private businesses, offices and establishments shall submit a
19 Management Plan, to the concerned LGU where the entity conducts
20 operations or holds office not later than fifteen (15) days upon resumption of
21 their operations. Such Management Plan shall contain, among others,
22 the following information:
23 1) Total number of employees in the specific workplace, office, or branch
24 covered by the plan;

- 1 2) Overall strategy for the reporting of the workforce which may be on
2 rotational, staggered, tele-commuting, remote or on work-from-home
3 basis, including the relevant time specifications and periods as well as
4 the number of workers who shall be allowed ingress and egress;
- 5 3) Total number of workers at any given time in the workplace or office on
6 a daily basis;
- 7 4) Number of workers per area of space and the spacing mechanisms to
8 be implemented in compliance with physical distancing protocols, if
9 applicable;
- 10 5) Mechanisms for maintaining personal hygiene and cleanliness among
11 the employees and in workstations or areas including the availability of
12 handwashing or hand sanitizing implements;
- 13 6) Physical changes in space management introduced or to be introduced
14 in the workplaces to protect employees and to implement physical
15 distancing such as plastic barriers between customers and personnel
16 or between and among customers or other individuals within the
17 workplace;
- 18 7) Signages, reminders, and other information, in accessible formats,
19 including Filipino sign language, and/or easy-to-understand text in the
20 appropriate written language, installed or posted in key areas of the
21 workplace to serve as constant reminders for workers to practice the
22 mandatory health, safety and sanitation practices;
- 23 8) Mechanisms for maintaining physical distancing in communally shared
24 areas in the workplace, such as cafeterias, restrooms, conference
25 rooms, prayer rooms, breastfeeding stations, including safeguards

1 against sharing of tools, implements, utensils, equipment, and
2 supplies;

3 9) Physical and PPEs provided or to be provided by businesses to their
4 respective employees in order to inclusively implement the practices
5 mandated in this Act;

6 10)Mechanisms for managing employees exhibiting symptoms or
7 confirmed to have tested positive for COVID-19 infection, including the
8 company or business unit's system for contact tracing;

9 11)The Workers' Compensation Plan which provides how workers are
10 required to work and will be compensated while on quarantine;

11 12)Mechanisms to implement a circular economy in the workplace such
12 as the: i) reduction on the consumption of non-renewable resources; ii)
13 development or design of products that minimize waste; iii) re-use of
14 materials and expansion of the useful life of products; iv) prevention of
15 harmful emissions to soil, air and water; and iv) the installation of
16 segregation and recycling facilities;

17 13)Mechanisms for a healthier working environment such as but not
18 limited to the use of natural and non-toxic materials, improved indoor
19 air quality and ventilation, and the more efficient use of space; and

20 14)Measures to be implemented to implement for a "zero to landfill" policy
21 such as setting targets for reducing waste production; implementing
22 sorting and recycling for all office waste; ensuring that recycled waste
23 is composed or recycled; or observing sharing economy practices such
24 as reusing and recycling;

- 1 b) All private businesses, offices and establishments shall require all
2 employees to subject themselves to a thermal or temperature scan prior to
3 being allowed entry. Employees whose recorded body temperature render
4 them suspect for symptoms of COVID-19 shall be asked to undergo the
5 necessary quarantine protocols and given the appropriate medical advice,
6 or subjected to the appropriate health care in coordination with authorized
7 medical facilities;
- 8 c) Private entities resuming their operations and requiring the physical
9 presence of their employee subject to their Management Plan shall provide
10 shuttle or transportation services under the conditions applicable to public
11 transportation operators;.
- 12 d) There shall be an employee case management protocol to be observed on
13 the treatment of patients or of persons suspected to be afflicted with the
14 disease in accordance with prevailing DOH guidelines: *Provided*, That
15 patient-doctor confidentiality shall be suspended in order to aid contact
16 tracing and in the identification of possible COVID-19 patients.
- 17 e) Employers who opt to conduct testing may do so in a representative
18 sample: *Provided*, That the cost of testing is borne by the employer and
19 not charged to the Philhealth;
- 20 f) In the provision of assistance and financing schemes, the lack of capacity
21 of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the implementation
22 of their respective Management Plan shall be taken into consideration.

23 The implementation of mandatory public health standards and other
24 health-promoting practices committed by business owners in their respective

1 Management Plans shall be the joint responsibility of the owners or
2 management of establishments and their respective LGUs.

3 SEC. 9. *Specific Responsibilities of Particular National Government Offices,*
4 *their respective Attached Agencies, and GOCCs.* In addition to the duties and
5 mandates of National Government agencies already prescribed in the other sections
6 of this Act, the following agencies and offices are mandated to carry out the following
7 responsibilities, to wit:

8 B. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

9 The PSA shall fast-track the implementation of the provisions of Republic Act
10 No. 11055, or the Philippine Identification System Act, and Republic Act No. 11315,
11 or the Community-Based Monitoring System Act, to facilitate the profiling, contact-
12 tracing, and distribution of forms of assistance under the better normal period after
13 the lifting of enhanced community quarantine measures.

14 The PSA shall coordinate with the DILG, Department of Social Welfare and
15 Development (DSWD) and LGUs to cull information from the Community-Based
16 Monitoring System (CBMS) that may be utilized in fast-tracking efforts geared towards
17 the full implementation of the Philippine Identification System Act.

18 The PSA may likewise cull information contained in the existing databases of
19 the government on birth certificates, passports, voter's registration, GSIS, SSS,
20 PAGIBIG, Philhealth through data-sharing arrangements, subject to the rules and
21 procedures that shall be established by the National Privacy Commission (NPC) for
22 purposes of facilitating the implementation of the Philippine Identification System Act

23 B. Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)

24 The DICT shall fast track the progressive and full implementation of the
25 National Broadband Program (NBP) by immediately establishing and implementing a

1 nationwide and comprehensive information and communications technology (ICT)
2 action plan that shall involve all stakeholders, including the major TELCOs, small
3 TELCOs, internet service providers (ISPs), and developers of technology and digital
4 applications, with the end in view of -widening and improving connectivity not only for
5 the fight against COVID-19 but also for the long-term development needs of the
6 country. The NBP shall serve to enable the widespread accessibility to and utilization
7 of the internet for essential and significant public and private transactions, including
8 learning and instruction: *Provided*, That the NBP must be reliable and sufficiently able
9 to support a high volume of video streaming, in compliance with Republic Act No.
10 11106.

11 Further, the DICT shall immediately formulate and implement an industry-wide
12 policy for the TELCOS (both major and small), ISPs, and technology applications that
13 aims to widen connectivity in all sectors of society, particularly the poor, the
14 unconnected, the underserved households in poor urban communities,
15 geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), and the MSMEs:
16 *Provided*, That in relation to the widening of connectivity to all sectors of society, the
17 principle behind the NBP shall be adhered to. To achieve the goal of providing
18 connectivity to all sectors of the economy, incentives shall be provided to new market
19 that shall invest in unserved areas: *Provided, further*, That such incentives shall result
20 in affordable prices for internet usage: *Provided finally*, That the following key policies
21 shall be implemented:

22 a) Provision of incentives to TELCOs which serve the poor and underserved
23 MSMEs nationwide via WiFi technology by implementing a fair and
24 reasonable Spectrum User Fee (SUF) scheme for Wi-fi in accordance with
25 existing rules and regulations governing the use of WiFi;

- b) Implement its departmental policies and initiatives for the propagation of Common Tower and the sharing of Passive Telecommunication Infrastructure in the telecommunications industry;
- c) Implementation of the provision for fiber optic transmission rental from the National Grid Corporation to new telecommunications industry players to accelerate development therein;
- d) Implementation of the spectrum sharing arrangement among and between TELCOs, at intra-industry fee agreements regulated by NTC, to fully and optimally utilize the usage of licensed frequencies that are presently assigned to existing major TELCOs;
- e) Full use of the Internet Bandwidth supply made available by the Luzon Bypass infrastructure to provide connectivity to all government offices and to the unserved and underserved areas of the country; and,
- f) undertake contracts and other arrangements with private sector, including but not limited to the middle and last mile providers, the government-owned and controlled corporations or LGUs for the provision of internet bandwidth sourced separately from, or in conjunction with, the Luzon Bypass Infrastructure, should it become necessary, to provide connectivity to end-users through multi-year obligations;
- g) Promulgate joint policies with the DILG that mandate a simplified and streamlined permitting process for telecommunication and broadband infrastructure;
- h) Promulgate and implement policies for effective cross-sector infrastructure sharing, such as, but not limited to, coordinated or joint infrastructure development, dark fiber leasing, and joint venture;

1 i) Use of a fair pricing scheme to all stakeholders, giving priority to new
2 incoming players, particularly those that serve the poor and underserved
3 communities and GIDAs.

4 In pursuit of the above policy directives, the DICT shall undertake the following:

- 5 i. Implement programs that shall facilitate the setting-up of online, internet-
6 based systems and platforms in offices of the public sector, including
7 schools, universities and even barangay halls, across all levels;
- 8 ii. Assist public sector offices and agencies in the upgrading of their existing
9 internet and other ICT infrastructure;
- 10 iii. Establish, in coordination with other government agencies, learning
11 modules and relevant ICT solutions and systems to assist public sector
12 employees, and MSMEs in the use of relevant technological and digital
13 platforms that can assist in the various cycles of their business model;
14 and,
- 15 iv. Direct the NTC to implement all relevant policy directives under this Act,
16 including, but not limited to, those pertaining to the enhancement of
17 connectivity, improvement of internet speed and quality of service, and
18 development of the digital infrastructure of the country.

19 The DICT in coordination with the DOH shall also promote research towards the
20 development and establishment of an online system or the creation of a digital/phone-
21 based application (downloadable by the public) for case monitoring, mapping, and
22 contact-tracing that shall be integrated with global positioning system (GPS) activated
23 real-time technologies to monitor and track individuals, alert the user of location-based
24 risks and provide the user with updated and constant reminders and information for
25 their health and safety. Any technology created for case monitoring, mapping and

1 contact tracing shall be consistent with Republic Act No. 10173. The DICT shall
2 leverage the existing systems used for case monitoring, mapping and contact tracing.
3 All systems, initiated by the public or private sector, shall be interconnected to each
4 other and shall be subject to the policies and standards issued by the DICT.

5 The DICT shall take the lead in the establishment of e-government systems
6 and shall fast track its plans to build the necessary infrastructure to promote and
7 facilitate digitization of the government and interoperability of government services
8 and systems, especially those located in the provinces and rural areas. Under this
9 Act, government offices and agencies shall develop, introduce, and implement
10 solutions and systems to effectively facilitate government transactions through
11 various online channels or contact-less mechanisms. This includes the uploading of
12 pertinent government forms and their completion and/or submission thru websites or
13 online portals in order to minimize the need for face-to-face transactions or physical
14 travels or visits to government offices. Government agencies are hereby mandated to
15 utilize creative adaptive technology that shall allow full access of PWDs to government
16 services and are compliant with relevant existing laws, and practices. This includes
17 the establishment of a system of standards for Filipino sign language interpreting.

18 C. Department of Trade and Industry

19 The DTI in coordination with the DICT is hereby mandated to establish a digital
20 application for MSMEs to further enhance the conduct of e-commerce activities. The
21 following measures shall be undertaken to assist MSMEs:

22 a) Regulatory bodies and other concerned government agencies and
23 instrumentalities shall allow the immediate use of online platforms for
24 application, processing, approval and release of loans;

1 b) The use of video/teleconferencing, emails, and other online platforms shall be
2 allowed and shall be considered as compliance with government rules and
3 regulations, and the requirements of meetings such as service of meeting
4 notices, quorum and attendance requirements, and the registration of votes,
5 on matters before the body conducting the meeting.

6 c) The DTI shall provide special support programs that will assist MSMEs and
7 startups in achieving business recovery and resiliency including the following:
8 1. Capacity-building in digital skills;
9 2. Support for digitalizing operations;
10 3. Knowledge transfer and information-sharing with MSMEs; and,
11 4. Startup and MSMEs innovation aid.

12 The DTI in coordination with the DICT and the DOH shall also promote the
13 shifting, prioritization, or increase in government support or funding for the
14 manufacturing sector, including MSMEs engaged in the production of healthcare,
15 hygiene, and safety related goods, and the establishment of real-time online
16 information exchange between private hospitals and medical facilities in the supply,
17 demand, and procurement of the same: *Provided*, That concerned government
18 agencies shall promote and integrate circular economy strategies in the procurement
19 of materials or the development of mechanisms for hygiene and sanitation in the
20 implementation of this Act.

21 The provision of government support could come in the form of: (1) integrated
22 and uninterrupted supply chain networks; (2) reliable online market platforms; (2)
23 stable universal broadband; (3) digital IDs or digital signature infrastructure; and (4)
24 secured mobile payment channels, among others.

25 D. Department of Health

1 The DOH shall institutionalize and regulate telemedicine and e-prescription
2 activities, in accordance with relevant rules and regulations. It shall likewise explore
3 technological innovations for certain health services that might be compromised in the
4 new normal setting. It shall promote and support local research on COVID-19 testing
5 and treatment, and the development, manufacture and distribution of a vaccine.

6 To improve on public sanitation, the DOH shall execute all plans geared at
7 achieving zero open defecation and require all LGUs to report on their achievements
8 of this goal.

9 E. Local Water Districts and Water Utilities

10 Considering that water is a basic need in containing the transmission of
11 COVID-19 and similar diseases, the local water districts shall ensure the availability
12 of sufficient water supply in their areas of coverage. In the case of private water
13 utilities, such service providers shall review and recommend the appropriate
14 extension of concession agreements necessary to ensure sufficient water supply in
15 their service areas as well as to fast track sewerage systems as required under
16 Republic Act No. 9275, or the Clean Water Act. Such service providers shall also be
17 required to submit new master plans to reflect a speedier full sewerage, septage
18 and/or wastewater treatment coverage of the metropolis.

19 F. Department of Public Works and Highways

20 The DPWH shall take full responsibility for the implementation of the National
21 Sewerage and Septage Management Plan, and shall provide sufficient funds for it. -All
22 highly urbanized cities shall, in coordination with the Department of Environment and
23 Natural Resources (DENR), identify remaining hotspots of fecal transmission and
24 construct the necessary SEC. 10. *Gender and Social Equity.* - In the implementation
25 of the provisions of this Act, and in its standards, implementing rules and regulations,

1 special care and consideration shall be given to integrating gender issues and
2 eliminating all forms of discrimination in the following:

3 a) Implementation of alternative work arrangements in the public and private
4 sectors ensuring that DSWD and LGUs attend to possible heightened cases of
5 gender-based and domestic violence during intermittent mandatory lock-downs or
6 quarantines;

7 b) Social protection measures to be instituted for low-income and informal
8 female and male workers and daily wage earners that ensure restoration of livelihoods
9 and such other ameliorative measures that shall compensate for temporary loss of
10 incomes;

11 c) Sufficient and equal support for both women and men with disabilities,
12 cognizant that women with disabilities are most disadvantaged and excluded from
13 access to vital pandemic-related information and assistive acts;

14 d) Sufficient and equal provision of protective personal equipment (PPE) to
15 male and female frontline health workers and employees in both health centers and
16 public and private firms and workplaces; and,

17 e) Public reproductive health care services and the capacity of maternal health
18 clinics and midwives to address needs of child-bearers in terms of isolation from
19 infected patients, lactation and relactation assistance, and sufficient staffing and
20 facilities for life-saving procedures.

21 The needs of women in the health care and medical frontline professions shall
22 be considered in the procurement of PPEs and such other assistive measures such
23 as access to clean restrooms, reasonable work shifts and equity in wages.

1 Any sector that may be affected adversely by measures under this Act that
2 would lead to unemployment or industry collapse shall be assisted by the LGUs and
3 interlocal units in alleviating their economic status.

4 be assisted by the LGUs and interlocal units to bridge their economic status.

5 SEC. 11. *Prohibited Acts.*- The following acts and omissions are prohibited
6 under this Act:

- 7 a). Failure to wear a mask while in public spaces or in the workplace;
- 8 b) Failure to comply with the provisions on the management of spaces required
9 in Section 6 (B) of this Act;
- 10 c) Failure to implement and monitor the proper implementation of Management
11 of Public Transportation provided for under Section 6(C) of this Act;
- 12 d) Failure to comply with Section 6(D)(2) of this Act and other issuances,
13 circulars, memorandum and directives of DepED and CHED in relation to the
14 holding of classes during COVID-19 pandemic;
- 15 e) Failure to implement and monitor the proper implementation of Workplace-
16 Specific Protocols and Measures mentioned in Section 8 of this Act;
- 17 f) Failure to submit the Management Plan within the period required in Section
18 9(a) of this Act;
- 19 g) Failure of the employer, supervisor/manager or any person in charge to
20 abide by the Case Management Protocols as provided for in Section 9 of this
21 Act.

22 SEC. 12. *Penalties.* - Any person, natural or juridical, who violates the
23 provisions under Section 11 of this Act shall, upon conviction, suffer the following
24 penalties:

1 a) A fine of One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) upon issuance of a citation ticket

2 or one (1) day mandatory community service for violation of Section 11(a) of this Act;

3 b) Imprisonment of one (1) month and one day to two (2) months or a fine

4 ranging from One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00),

5 or both, at the discretion of the court for violation Section 11(b) to (g) of this Act.

6 In case the violation is committed by a partnership, corporation, association or

7 any juridical person, the partner, president, director or manager who consents to or

8 knowingly tolerates such violation shall be directly liable and responsible.

9 c) Suspension of the entity's permit to operate for any violation of Section 11(f):

10 *Provided*, That the entity shall be given a period of fifteen (15) days to submit the

11 required Management Plan: *Provided further*, That failure to comply within the 15-day

12 period shall be meted a fine of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00);

13 d) Imprisonment of not less than two (2) months but not more than six (6)

14 months, or a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than

15 One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or both imprisonment and fine, at the

16 discretion of the court, in case the offender is a government official or employee.

17 SEC. 13. *Appropriations*.- The amount necessary to effectively carry out the

18 provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the

19 concerned government agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the

20 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General

21 Appropriations Act.

22 SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - The respective heads or the

23 duly authorized representatives of the following agencies shall compose the Technical

24 Working Group (TWG) which shall be established within fifteen (15) days from the

25 publication of this Act to craft the IRR and shall promulgate the rules and regulations

1 necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within fifteen (15) days after the
2 establishment of the TWG:

- 3 a) Department of Interior and Local Government;
- 4 b) Department of Finance;
- 5 c) Department of Trade and Industry;
- 6 d) National Economic Development Authority;
- 7 e) Department of Labor and Employment;
- 8 f) Department of Information and Communications Technology;
- 9 g) Department of Budget and Management;
- 10 h) Department of Transportation;
- 11 i) Department of Education;
- 12 j) Department of Health;
- 13 k) Civil Service Commission;
- 14 l) Commission on Higher Education; and,
- 15 m) the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging
16 Infectious Diseases

17 SEC. 15. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* -- A Joint Congressional
18 Oversight Committee composed of four (4) members of each House to be appointed
19 by the Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively, shall exercise an
20 oversight function over the implementation of this Act..

21 SEC. 16. *Sunset Clause.* — This Act shall expire after a three-year period from
22 the date of its effectivity, or sooner upon official declaration of the President of the
23 Philippines issued upon recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the
24 Management of Emerging and Infectious Diseases that the prevailing pandemic
25 caused by the COVID-19 virus, or similar infectious diseases, has already been

1 eradicated: *Provided*, That standards, protocols, and other measures prescribed by
2 this Act which are not rendered useless or impractical by the eradication of COVID-
3 19 may continue to be implemented.

4 SEC. 17. *Separability Clause*. — If, for any reason or reasons, any part or
5 provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or
6 provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and
7 effect.

8 SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause*. — All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules
9 and regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions
10 of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

11 SEC. 19. *Effectivity Clause*. — This Act shall take effect immediately upon its
12 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) a newspapers of general
13 circulation in the Philippines.

14 Approved,