The unprecedented pandemic that hit the country this year resulted in the temporary suspension and delay in the implementation of many governmental programs, projects, and other activities to be funded from the General Appropriations Act of 2020. Moreover, all government infrastructure projects were halted for more or less an aggregate of 3 months due to health protocols to curb the spread of the said virus – a long hiatus of the national infrastructure program.

Today, at the 3rd Quarter of the year, there are appropriations that have not been released and allotment issued that have not been obligated which shall automatically result in the reversion of the said unexpended appropriations to the National Treasury adversely affecting priority projects, aid in relief activities, as well as the maintenance, construction/repair and rehabilitation of hospitals, schools, and other essential facilities of the national government, among others.

In order to be proactive in this trying time of an impending and inevitable recession brought by the pandemic, and in order to fully utilize the allotted funds of the country, the extension of the GAA 2020 must be sought.

This measure will give the country the much needed economic boost in 2021 by providing more jobs in order to compensate the future restrictions under the ‘new norm’.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.
AN ACT

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

SECTION 1. SECTION 60 of the 2020 General Appropriations Act of Republic Act No. 11465 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 60. Availability of Appropriations. - All appropriations authorized in this Act shall be available for release and obligation for the purpose specified, and under the same special provisions applicable thereto, until December 31, 2021.

"A report on these releases and obligations shall be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate of the Philippines, the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance, either in printed form or by way of electronic document."

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.