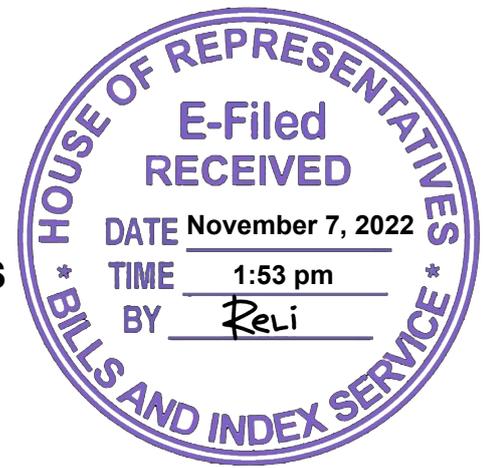


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

19th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5895



Introduced by Rep. MARIA VANESSA C. AUMENTADO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines (VIP) Act of 2022. This is in response to the priority measures mentioned by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. during his 2022 State of the Nation Address (SONA) for the creation of the “Virology Institute of the Philippines (VIP) Act.”

The COVID-19 pandemic phenomenon demonstrated the rapidity with which the new viruses and its variants can travel worldwide, inflict misery, wrought havoc to human lives, and put the global economy to a halt as nations fall helpless amidst the specter of its virulence, more transmissible and fatal emerging variants, and threats of resurgence. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is still visible. Thus, the need for an empowered, highly specialized, science and ICT based, fast and responsive formal institution that would be at the forefront of handling viruses that primarily affect, not only human beings such as COVID-19 or dengue, but also, to include non-human affecting virus, such as: a) the African Swine Fever which severely damaged the livestock industry, b) the Avian flu, c) Tungro virus, d) Pineapple mealybug wilt-associated virus, e) Banana bunchy top virus and many other viruses.

The time is here and now to invest decisively in science and technology. The country needs diagnostics to detect and limit the spread of existing viruses; vaccines to provide long-term protection; treatments to save lives in the shorter-term, and social science to understand their behavioral and societal implications.

Worth-noting is the primordial significance of health as enshrined in the Constitution, which states under Art. II, Section 15 - *“The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”*

This bill was filed on behalf of the Second District of Bohol during the 18th Congress and was unanimously approved by the House of Representatives on July 28, 2021.

In view of the above premises, the prompt approval of this measure is highly sought and recommended.



MARIA VANESSA C. AUMENTADO
Representative
2nd District, Bohol

- 1 a) Research on viruses using a modern approach such as molecular biology and
2 its application or biotechnology;
3
4 b) Development of diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics (Molecular
5 Biotechnology);
6
7 c) International cooperation and network of databases of virus infections;
8
9 d) Operation of a virus gene bank, virus genome laboratory, and virus
10 referencelaboratory to focus on viruses circulating in the Philippines for
11 disease prevention and epidemiological studies; and,
12
13 e) Operation of a virus high containment laboratory dedicated to the study of
14 highly infectious and highly pathogenic viruses.
15

16 **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:
17

- 18 a) Virology refers to the scientific discipline concerned with the study of the
19 biology of viruses and viral diseases of plant, animal, and human of medical
20 importance and pandemic potential including the distribution, pathogenicity,
21 viral cytopathicity, biochemistry, physiology, molecular biology,
22 biotechnology, ecology, tropism, spillover or interspecies transmission,
23 evolution, and clinical aspects of viruses;
24
25 b) Diagnostics refers to methods, tests, techniques, and tools in viral diagnosis
26 for plants, animals and humans;
27
28 c) Therapeutics refers to anti-viral, bacteriophages, nanotechnology
29 treatmentapproach, nucleic acid-based treatment, remedial agents, drugs for
30 the treatment of viral diseases and infections of plants, animals and humans;
31
32 d) Vaccines refer to products that induce or stimulate active acquired immunity
33 by producing antibodies to a specific infectious agent. It helps the body's
34 immune system to recognize and fight pathogens like viruses or bacteria;
35
36 e) Biosafety refers to a condition in which the probability of harm, injury and
37 damage resulting from the intentional and unintentional introduction and/or
38 use of aregulated article is within acceptable and manageable levels;
39
40 f) Bacteriophage refers to any group of viruses that infect specific bacteria,
41 usually causing their disintegration or dissolution;
42
43 g) Biosecurity refers to a strategic and integrated approach to analyzing and
44 managing relevant risks to plant, animal and human life and health and
45 associated risks for the environment. It is based on recognition of the critical
46 linkages between sectors and the potential for hazards to move within and
47 between sectors, with system-wide consequences;
48

1
2 **SEC. 5. Creation of the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines**
3 **(VIP).** - The Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines (VIP).is hereby created,
4 which shall be an attached agency under the Department of Science and Technology
5 (DOST) for purposes of policy and program coordination to ensure alignment with
6 national policies and priorities.
7

8 The VIP shall serve as the premier research and development institute in the
9 field of virology, encompassing all areas in viruses and viral diseases in plants, animals
10 and humans. It shall be a venue for scientists, research institutes and other
11 organizations here in the Philippines and abroad, to work collaboratively to study
12 viruses of agricultural, industrial, clinical, and environmental importance.
13

14 **SEC. 6. Powers, Functions, and Duties.** - To accomplish its mandate, the
15 VIP shall have the following powers, functions, and duties:
16

- 17 a) Serve as the lead convener for the formulation of the National Virology
18 Research Agenda, in consultation with all concerned stakeholders, that will
19 encompass researches involving viruses of plant, animal, and human
20 importance.
21
- 22 b) Undertake scientific and technological research and development (R&D)
23 in the field of virology.
24
- 25 c) Conduct product research and development (R&D) in the areas of but not
26 limited to diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.
27
- 28 d) Promote and undertake the transfer of the results of scientific research and
29 development to concerned government agencies, industry, and academe.
30
- 31 e) Promote and advocate virology research ethics, biosafety, and biosecurity.
32
- 33 f) Develop and maintain an information system on virology science and
34 technology for use by both the public and private sectors.
35
- 36 f) Develop and implement, together with other entities concerned, programs
37 for strengthening scientific and technological capabilities in virology and
38 relevant disciplines through human resource development, infrastructure,
39 and institution building.
40
- 41 g) Undertake policy research, technology assessment, and other related
42 studies on virology.
43
- 44 h) Provide laboratory and technical services on virology.
45
- 46 i) Promote and advocate the national programs on virology science and
47 technology.
48
- 49 j) Establish linkages with local and international partners.

1
2 **SEC. 7. Organizational Structure.** - The VIP shall be headed by a **Director-**
3 **General** and two (2) **Deputy Directors-General**, one (1) for Research and
4 Development, and one (1) for Support, Policy, and Linkages. The VIP shall be
5 composed of the following divisions:

- 6 a) Virus Research
7 b) Diagnostics and Therapeutics Research
8 c) Vaccines Research
9 d) Technical Services and Training
10 e) Policy, Planning, and Linkages
11 f) Finance and Administration
12

13 The **Deputy Director-General** for Research and Development shall head the
14 Virus Research, Diagnostics and Therapeutics Research, and Vaccines Research
15 Divisions. The **Deputy Director-General** for Support, Policy, and Linkages shall head
16 the Technical Services and Training, Policy, Planning, and Linkages, and Finance and
17 Administration Divisions.
18

19 The VIP shall have technical and administrative support staff and consultants.
20 The consultants may come from the public and private sectors on a consultancy or
21 contractual basis, and shall be granted honoraria or allowances in accordance with
22 existing rules and regulations.
23

24 Subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM),
25 the VIP shall determine its organizational structure, create new divisions or units as it
26 may deem necessary, and appoint its officers and employees.
27

28 For this purpose, the VIP shall, in consultation with the DBM, determine the
29 necessary position qualifications and standards for its personnel following civil service
30 laws, rules, and regulations.
31

32 **SEC. 8. Qualifications of the VIP Director-General and Deputy Directors-**
33 **General.** The VIP Director-General and the Deputy Directors-General shall be
34 appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the DOST
35 Secretary.
36

37 The Director-General with a rank of an undersecretary shall be a qualified
38 expert possessing at least a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, Microbiology and/or an
39 allied discipline; preferably with a doctorate degree in medical sciences and/or in
40 virology-related discipline with three to five years of experience in diagnostic virology.
41 He shall have overall responsibility for the activities including the supervision of all the
42 staff working in the VIP. In addition, he shall be directly responsible for reporting to
43 the Secretary of Science and Technology and the President of the Philippines the results
44 of the various diagnostic assays and research studies performed in the institute.
45

46 Each of the Deputy Directors-General of the VIP shall have a rank of assistant
47 secretary. The Deputy Director-General shall possess at least the educational
48 background of the VIP Director-General.
49

1 The Director-General and the Deputy Director-Generals shall be appointed by
2 the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments for a term of seven
3 years. Of those first appointed, the Director-General shall hold office for seven years,
4 one Deputy Director-General for five years, and the other Deputy Director-General for
5 three years. Appointment to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired portion of the
6 term of the predecessor.
7

8 **SEC. 9. The Governing Board.** - The Governing Board shall be the highest
9 policy-making body for the scientific and technological activities of the VIP, composed
10 of the following:

- 11 a) The Secretary of the DOST, as Chairperson;
- 12 b) The Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH), as Co-Chairperson;
- 13 c) Secretary of Department of Agriculture (DA), as Co-Chairperson,
- 14 d) The Secretary of Trade and Industry, as may be represented by an
15 Undersecretary for Industry Development and Trade Policy
- 16 e) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, as may be represented
17 by an Undersecretary (DENR), as member;
- 18 f) The Undersecretary for Research and Development of the DOST, as member;
- 19 g) The Secretary of Foreign Affairs, as may be represented by the Undersecretary
20 for International Economic Relations, as member;
- 21 h) The Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), as member;
- 22 i) The Director of the Research Institute for Tropical Medical Medicine (RITM),
23 as member;
- 24 j) The Director-General of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as member;
- 25 k) The Director-General of the VIP, as member;
- 26 l) The Executive Director of University of the Philippines-National Institute of
27 Health (UP-NIH), as member; [and]
- 28 m) Three (3) representatives from the private sector appointed by the President of
29 the Philippines, as nominated by the Governing Board. These representatives
30 shall have distinguished themselves in the field of medical virology, genomics,
31 plant virology, animal virology, epidemiology, genetic engineering, and other
32 related disciplines.

33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47 The private sector shall be represented by the following:

- 1
2 i. an association of medical or allied-health professionals
3 ii. Philippine Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association or from a
4 recognized pharmaceutical industry
5 iii. An academic institution with research and development activities in the field
6 of medical virology, genomics, plant virology, animal virology,
7 epidemiology, genetic engineering, and other related disciplines

8
9 The VIP shall serve as the Secretariat of the Governing Board with the VIP
10 Director acting concurrently as the Executive Director of the Secretariat.

11
12 **SEC. 10. Functions of the Governing Board.** The Governing Board shall be
13 the policy-making body for the scientific and technological activities of the VIP. It
14 shall:

- 15
16 a) Promulgate rules and regulations regarding the management and operation
17 of the VIP
18
19 b) Collect fees, through its Secretariat, in connection with the exercise of its
20 regulatory powers
21
22 c) Apply for, receive, and accept bequests, grants, and donation of funds,
23 equipment, materials and services needed for the attainment of its objectives;
24
25 d) Provide grants, research fund, materials and equipment for the conduct of
26 virology researches by both public and private higher education institutions;
27
28 e) Establish an editorial office of a refereed journal of virology and a library
29 which shall collect and preserve books, journals and other reference
30 materials in the field of virology; and
31
32 f) Perform such other related activities as may be assigned by the DOST
33 Secretary.

34
35 **SEC. 11. Compliance with Existing Government Regulations.** The VIP shall
36 comply with the procedures, rules and regulations of other Government Offices
37 mandated to oversee the practice of virology and other related disciplines as well as the
38 operation of laboratories, clinics, diagnostics and similar facilities; but not limited to
39 the following: procurement of specimen, supplies, materials, and equipment; handling,
40 storage, the study of specimen, and disposal of specimen, equipment and other forms
41 of waste.

42
43 The Department of Health (DOH) through the Health Facilities and Services
44 Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) shall establish guidelines and regulate the operation of
45 virology-related facilities to be assisted by the DA-Bureau of Animal Industry, DA-
46 Bureau of Plant Industry, and other relevant stakeholders.

1
2 The DOH-Health Human Resource Development Bureau shall establish
3 guidelines on the practice of virology profession in the country to be assisted by the
4 Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and its health-related accredited
5 professional organizations, together with the Commission on Higher Education
6 (CHED), Department of Labor and Employment, Civil Service Commission, Bureau of
7 Immigration, and other relevant government offices.
8

9 The DENR through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) and the
10 National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) shall ensure compliance of
11 the VIP and other virology facilities with regards to waste disposal.
12

13 Finally, research proposals prior to its undertaking within the VIP shall be
14 reviewed by the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB) or through its
15 accredited ethics review committees or entities. Processes and regulations of the Food
16 and Drug Administration, Health Technology Assessment Council and/or of the
17 Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines shall be strictly observed prior to
18 commercialization of any drug, vaccine, diagnostics, device and other similar products.
19

20 An Inter-Agency Task Force may be created to monitor compliance of all
21 virology-related professions and facilities throughout the country to be headed by the
22 DOH-Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau.
23

24 **SEC. 11. Engagement of Balik Scientists and Foreign Experts.** -The VIP
25 may engage the services of Balik Scientists and foreign experts who shall work together
26 with the local scientists and experts, following the terms of reference and compensation
27 structure in accordance with Republic Act No. 11035 or the Balik Scientist Program
28 Act and other existing laws.
29

30 **SEC. 12. International Cooperation.** - The VIP shall establish strategic
31 partnerships with the world's leading scientists, virology centers and institutes, and
32 conduct innovative and pioneering researches that will advance the frontiers of virology
33 in the country. The VIP can enter into a memorandum of agreement or understanding
34 with international partners, upon the approval of its Governing Board and in compliance
35 with existing laws, rules, regulations and issuances of the Department of Foreign
36 Affairs (DFA). The DFA shall provide technical, legal and other forms of assistance to
37 the VIP.
38

39 The Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the
40 Philippines shall also be consulted upon approval of the Governing Board of the VIP.
41

42 **SEC. 13. Interdepartmental Cooperation.** - The VIP shall collaborate with
43 the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Finance (DOF), Food and Drugs
44 Administration (FDA), RITM and other relevant government agencies, in mobilizing
45 resources such as but not limited to research information, reports, technical expertise,
46 equipment, materials and supplies as may be required to implement this Act.
47

48 **SEC. 14. Inter-Agency Contribution of the VIP.** – The research outputs of
49 the VIP shall be integrated with the plans made by the Inter-Agency Task Force on
50 Emerging Infectious Diseases, as created by Executive Order No. 168 s. 2014, or its

1 successor body, for the management of public health emergencies relating to infectious
2 diseases.

3
4 The research outputs of the VIP shall also be integrated into other plans relating
5 to disease control and prevention.
6

7 **SEC. 15. Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs).** - The Department of Trade and
8 Industry (DTI), the Department of Health (DOH), Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
9 Center and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) shall collaborate in
10 seeking Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs) for the development of new industries,
11 products and services where the VIP shall be the main research and development unit.
12

13 The DOST may also request the assistance of other national and local
14 government agencies in seeking PPPs where the VIP shall be the main research and
15 development unit
16

17 **SEC. 16. Promotion of Virology Industry.** - The DOST, in partnership with
18 the DOH-Health Promotion and Communication Service and Disease Prevention and
19 Control Bureau and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Board of Investments,
20 shall jointly develop an industry roadmap for products and services that can be created,
21 improved, or optimized by research from the VIP. As far as practicable, the industry
22 roadmap shall include the use of local materials in the development of new products.
23 The industry that shall be developed or established resulting from the VIP researches
24 shall be included in the national government's priority industries for incentives.
25

26 **SEC. 17. Promotion of Knowledge-transfer and Research in the Academe.**
27 - The VIP shall promote the creation of hubs and programs for virology research
28 and development in the academe, particularly in state universities and colleges (SUCs).
29 Towards this end, the VIP shall assist SUCs in the creation of virology courses and
30 programs, open internships for qualified students of higher education institutions
31 (HEIs) and collaborate with HEIs in the creation of virology research centers.
32

33 The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall collaborate with the
34 DOST in the promotion of HEI-VIP partnerships.
35

36 **SEC. 18. Protection of VIP-developed Intellectual Property.** - The
37 Governing Board of the VIP shall ensure that all technologies developed exclusively
38 by the VIP with full funding from Filipino taxpayers shall be protected by intellectual
39 property laws in accordance with Republic Act No. 10055 or the Technology Transfer
40 Act of 2009 and other applicable laws Any patent grant or property right awarded or
41 granted to the VIP shall be held by and in the name of the Philippine Government. In
42 the case of partnerships, where the VIP is a collaborating research partner, the
43 Governing Board shall ensure that technologies co-developed by the VIP shall also be
44 co-attributed, with the corresponding intellectual protections, to the Philippine
45 Government.
46

47 **SEC. 19. Procurement of Specialized Materials, Equipment and Services.** -
48 The VIP shall undertake the procurement of specialized materials, equipment, and
49 services to be used by the VIP in its operation and administration, in the most

1 expeditious manner, as exemptions from the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 or
2 the “Government Procurement Reform Act” and other relevant laws.

3
4 Provided, that during public health emergency, the following shall be observed:

- 5
6 a) Less stringent procurement procedures allowing negotiated procurement,
7 higher caps on allowable down payment for procurement of goods, supplies,
8 equipment and services;
9
10 b) Authority to the DOST Secretary to approve advance payment of more than
11 15% for procurement of goods, supplies, equipment and services, for faster
12 facilitation;
13
14 c) Simplified process for foreign procurement especially with specialized
15 equipment, reagents, and supplies not available in the Philippines;
16
17 d) Exemption from customs duties and taxes for all VIP supplies and
18 equipment procured abroad; and,
19
20 e) Exemption from taxes on income generated through training and other
21 delivery of services of VIP.”

22
23 **SEC. 20. Official Site of VIP.** - A lot with an area equivalent to at least five
24 (5) hectares under the administration of the Bases Conversion and Development
25 Authority (BCDA) within the New Clark Economic Zone in Tarlac shall **be** allocated
26 exclusively for the **free use of** for the Institute, its research facilities, and laboratories.
27 The biosafety infrastructure shall be designed based on risk assessment for handling
28 specific pathogens following the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on the
29 establishment of a virology laboratory in developing countries.
30

31 **SEC. 21. Entitlement to Magna Carta Benefits.** - Qualified employees of the
32 VIP shall be covered by Republic Act No. 8439, otherwise known as “Magna Carta for
33 Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and Other Science and Technology Personnel in
34 Government”.
35

36 **SEC. 22. Virology Research Fund.** - There is hereby created a Virology
37 Research Fund to be used and administered by the VIP following existing government
38 budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations. The Fund shall be sourced
39 from the following:
40

- 41 a) The initial amount of Two Billion pesos (P 2,000,000,000.00) to be taken
42 from the
43
44 b) current fiscal year’s appropriation, in case the General Appropriation Act
45 (GAA) was approved before this law is enacted.
46
47 c) The income produced from its operations, technology transfer, and licensing
48 agreements.

- 1
2 d) Loans, contributions, grants, bequests, gifts, and donations whether from local
3 or foreign sources. Provided, that acceptance of grants, bequests, contributions,
4 and donations from foreign governments shall be subject to the approval of the
5 President upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the DOST and Secretary
6 of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). The Secretary of DOST, with the
7 approval of the NEDA and subsequently, the Department of Finance (DOF), is
8 hereby granted the authority to enter into loan agreements with foreign financial
9 institutions.

10
11 **SEC. 23. Authority to Solicit, Receive Donations, Grants and the Like.** –
12 The VIP may solicit, negotiate with, and receive from any public or private domestic
13 or foreign sources legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions or
14 other transfers of ownership and/or possession of real or personal properties of all
15 kinds in favor and for the benefit of the VIP, which shall be exempt from donor’s tax
16 and shall all be part of the special account in the general fund managed by the
17 Department of Finance.

18
19 The VIP shall prescribe the measures necessary for the proper use, maintenance
20 and safekeeping of said donations, grants, endowments, contributions or transfers and
21 the compliance of the terms and conditions thereon, if any, in accordance with pertinent
22 accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations.

23
24 **SEC. 24. Use of Income.** - The VIP shall be authorized to use all of the income
25 generated from its operations, as well as donations, bequests, grants for the upgrading
26 if its physical and human resources, and for the augmentation of its budget.

27
28 **SEC. 25. Mandatory Adoption of Publicly Funded Technologies.** Mandatory
29 adoption of publicly funded and generated technologies developed by the VIP
30 whenever feasible and practicable, shall strictly be implemented by all government
31 entities or instrumentalities All national government agencies (NGAs), government-
32 owned-and-controlled corporations (GOCCs), state universities and colleges (SUCs),
33 and local government units (LGUs) performing science and technology development
34 projects shall adopt publicly-funded technologies.

35
36 **SEC. 26. Annual Report.** - The VIP shall submit its annual report to the
37 President and to the Committees on Science and Technology in both Chambers of
38 Congress, not later than the 30th of March of every year following the effectivity of
39 this Act. The annual report shall provide a full and detailed account of the status of the
40 implementation of this Act and policy recommendations.

41
42 **SEC. 27. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee.** – There shall be a Joint
43 Congressional Oversight Committee on the implementation of this Act, which shall be
44 jointly chaired by the Chairpersons of the Committees on Science and Technology of
45 the Senate and House of Representatives. It shall be composed of, as members, the
46 Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Health and Demography and Agriculture,
47 Food and Agrarian Reform, the Chairpersons of the Committees on Health and Food
48 and Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and two others from each chamber of

1 Congress to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives.

3
4 **SEC. 28. Appropriations.** - The sum of Two Billion Pesos (Php
5 2,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial operation fund of the VIP from
6 the current fiscal year's appropriation. Thereafter, the amount needed for its operation
7 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

8
9 **SEC.29. Transitory Provisions.** –Upon the establishment of the VIP, the
10 functions and assets of the concerned DOH units shall be transferred to the VIP without
11 need of conveyance, transfer of assignment.

12
13 (a) For the year, during which this Act was approved, the unexpended portion of the
14 budget of the offices and units transferred shall be utilized for establishing the
15 VIP and initiating its operations, including the formulation of the rules and
16 regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

17 (b) To the greatest extent possible and in accordance with existing laws, all
18 employees of the affected offices, agencies and units shall be absorbed by the
19 VIP. Personnel hired on a permanent basis and with appointments attested by
20 the CSC who may be affected by the transition of DOST units to VIP, or who
21 will not be absorbed in the new positions of the new staffing pattern of the
22 different offices in the VIP, shall have the option to:

23 (1) Be transferred to other units/offices within the DOST without reduction in
24 pay; or

25 (2) Avail of the applicable retirement benefits and separation incentives as
26 provided by existing laws.

27 (c) Incumbent DOST officials and employees of affected DOST offices may be
28 considered as a VIP official or employee, subject to competency evaluation and
29 CSC regulations.

30 (d) Research grants acquired during the transition of DOST transferred units to VIP
31 shall be utilized solely for the grants' intended purposes for each of the affected
32 units or offices.

33 (e) Existing contracts and agreements entered into by the affected offices with third
34 parties prior to the enactment of this Act shall remain valid.

35
36 **SEC. 30. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DOST Secretary, in
37 consultation with DBM, DOH, Civil Service Commission, and other relevant
38 government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations within one
39 hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act.

40
41 **SEC. 30. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is
42 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force
43 and effect.

1 **SEC. 31. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or
2 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed or modified accordingly.
4

5 **SEC. 32. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the Official Gazette or any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in
7 the Philippines.
8

9
10

Approved,