

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9946



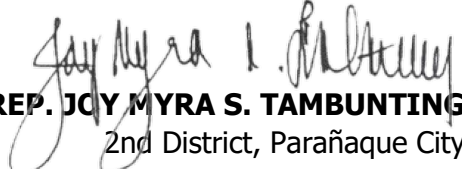
Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As the country work towards keeping COVID-19 infections at bay with a combination of movement control (through various community quarantine measures), testing and tracing, and a nationwide vaccination drive, COVID-19 test results and vaccination cards have become important documents which allow people more freedom to engage in transactions outside their residences. These documents also clear people to travel within zones, as these provide evidence that individuals are less likely to carry and transmit COVID-19 to zero or low-case zones. These privileges, along with other perks and benefits offered by several business establishments to vaccinated individuals prompted the proliferation of falsified medical certificates in the country.

Lately, there have been numerous reports of use of falsified COVID-19 reports for travel purposes as well as fake vaccination cards to avail of benefits in business establishments. While falsification of medical certificates is already punishable under Article 174 of the Revised Penal Code, this Representation believes that such activities should receive graver penalties considering the fact that such acts blatantly endanger the whole population and undermine government efforts towards addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, this measure proposes to increase the penalties for falsification of medical certificates (including but not limited to COVID test results and vaccination cards).

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 9946

Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE FALSIFICATION OF MEDICAL
CERTIFICATES IN TIMES OF NATIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES INCLUDING
BUT NOT LIMITED TO TEST RESULTS AND VACCINATION CARDS, AMENDING
FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 174 OF ACT NO. 3815 ALSO KNOWN AS "THE
REVISED PENAL CODE", AS AMENDED BY RA 10951

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

SECTION 1. Article 174 of Act No. 3815 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Art. 174. *False medical certificates, false certificates of merits or service, etc.* - The penalties of arresto mayor in its maximum period to prision correccional in its minimum period and a fine not to exceed Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000) shall be imposed upon;

"1. Any physician or surgeon who, in connection with the practice of his profession, shall issue a false certificate; and

"2. Any public officer who shall issue a false certificate of merit of service, good conduct or similar circumstances."

"The penalty of arresto mayor shall be imposed upon any private person who shall falsify a certificate falling within the classes mentioned in the two (2) preceding subdivisions."

THE PENALTY OF PRISION CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MEDIUM PERIOD TO PRISION CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD AND A FINE NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P250,000) SHALL BE IMPOSED UPON ANY PRIVATE PERSON OR ANY PHYSICIAN OR SURGEON WHO SHALL FALSIFY

ANY MEDICAL CERTIFICATE, TEST RESULT, VACCINATION CARD DURING THE TIME OF A DULY DECLARED NATIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCY: PROVIDED, THAT THE FALSIFIED MEDICAL CERTIFICATE, TEST RESULT, VACCINATION CARD MUST BEAR IMPORTANCE IN THE MITIGATION/RESOLUTION OR EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE DECLARED NATIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCY SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO MEDICAL TEST RESULTS AND VACCINATION CARDS; PROVIDED FURTHER THAT, WHEN COMMITTED BY A GROUP OF THREE OR MORE PEOPLE FOR A GAIN, THE PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED SHALL BE PRISION CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD AND THE FINE IMPOSED SHALL BE ONE MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000).

SEC. 2. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,