

## **AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE REORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE BUREAU OF QUARANTINE SERVICE, AND PROMULGATING REGULATIONS THEREOF.**

*REPUBLIC ACT NO. 123, June 14, 1947*

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

SECTION 1. Administration of the Bureau of Quarantine Service.—The name of the Bureau of Quarantine Service shall be changed to Bureau of Quarantine and shall have the category of a first-class bureau. It shall function under the Department of Health and Public Welfare and shall be administered by the Director of Quarantine. The Director of Quarantine shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments.

SEC. 2. Jurisdiction and functions of the Bureau of Quarantine.—The examination at ports of entry and airports of entry of the Philippines of incoming and outgoing vessels and aircraft, the necessary surveillance over their sanitary conditions, as well as over their cargoes, passengers, crew, and all personal effects, and the issuing of quarantine certificates, bills of health, or other equivalent documents shall be vested in and be conducted by the Bureau of Quarantine. This Bureau shall have authority over incoming vessels, including those of the army and navy, both domestic and foreign, their wharfage and anchorage, and over aircraft and airports, insofar as is necessary for the proper enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. Reorganization of the Bureau of Quarantine.— The Secretary of Health and Public Welfare is hereby authorized, upon the recommendation of the Director of Quarantine, to reorganize the Bureau of Quarantine and to promulgate rules and regulations for the operation of the said Bureau: Provided, however, That in the reorganization, all the officers and employees of the United States Public Health Service engaged in quarantine work in the Philippines, notwithstanding civil service eligibility, shall be automatically transferred since July fourth, nineteen hundred forty-six, and appointed to the positions authorized for them in the budget for the Bureau of Quarantine, and their services under the United States Public Health Service shall be considered as a continuation of service in the Bureau of Quarantine when determining the scope and extent of any privileges, benefits, emoluments, allowances, etc., granted or which may be granted by the Government, and for all purposes when the length of services becomes a base or factor for the maximum computation of a claim. They shall have the same rights and privileges allowed or which hereafter may be allowed to Civil Service employees, such as the right to Government insurance, pension, retirement, gratuity, bonus, allowances, etc., in the capacity of classified Civil Service officers and employees at the time of the enactment of the law or measure granting the benefit.

SEC. 4. Military rank of commissioned officers of the Bureau of Quarantine.—The Director of Quarantine shall have the rank of a colonel or higher and all quarantine officers under him shall have the ranks of lieutenant colonels, majors, captains and lieutenants, and such officers shall be commissioned by the President upon recommendation of the Director of Quarantine with the approval of the Secretary of Health and Public Welfare.

SEC. 5. Authority to promulgate and enforce rules and regulations and provide penalties for their violations.—

- The Director of Quarantine, with the approval of the Secretary of Health and Public Welfare is authorized to

promulgate and enforce such rules and regulations as in his judgment are necessary to prevent the introduction, transmission, or spread of quarantinable diseases from foreign countries into the Philippines or from one port to another in the Philippines. For purposes of carrying out and enforcing these regulations, the Director of Quarantine may provide for such inspections, fumigation, disinfection, sanitation, pest extermination, destruction of animals or articles found to be so infected or contaminated as to be sources of infection to human beings, and other measures as in his judgment may be necessary.

- Regulations prescribed under this section shall not provide for the apprehension, detention, or conditional release of individuals except for the purpose of preventing the introduction, transmission, or spread of such quarantinable diseases as may be specified from time to time in executive orders of the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Health and Public Welfare.

- Whenever it is deemed necessary for the protection of the public health of the nation from quarantinable diseases, such immunization against them as are deemed necessary by the Director of Quarantine shall be mandatory on all persons arriving at any port of entry in the Philippines.

- The Secretary of Health and Public Welfare on the recommendation of the Director of Quarantine may prescribe rules and regulations under this section for the apprehension and examination of any individual believed to be infected with a communicable disease in an infectious stage on board vessels and aircraft entering any seaport or airport in the Philippines. Such rules and regulations may provide that if upon examination any such individual is found to be infected or has been exposed to infection, as to be considered a dangerous contact, he may be detained aboard a vessel, in a hospital, at a quarantine detention station or at any place of isolation and in such a manner as may be prescribed by the said regulations.

SEC. 6. Suspension of entries and imports from designated places.—Whenever the Director of Quarantine determines that by reason of the existence of any quarantinable disease in a foreign country there is imminent danger of its introduction into the Philippines, and that this danger may be enhanced by the introduction of persons or property from such country and that a suspension of the right to introduce such persons and property is required in the interest of public health, the Director of Quarantine may recommend to the President, through the Secretary of Health and Public Welfare, the issuance of an executive order prohibiting, in whole or in part, the introduction of persons and properties from such countries into the Philippines.

SEC. 7. Quarantine stations.—The Director of Quarantine, shall control, direct, and manage all Philippine quarantine stations, grounds, and anchorages, designating their boundaries. With the approval of the Secretary of Health and Public Welfare, he shall from time to time select suitable sites for and establish such additional stations, grounds, anchorages, hospitals, dispensaries, and treatment stations in the Philippines as in his judgment are necessary to prevent the introduction of quarantinable diseases into the Philippines.

SEC. 8. Quarantine certificates of vessels and aircraft.— Any vessel or aircraft at any foreign port or place clearing or departing for any port of the Philippines shall be required to obtain from officers designated by the Director of Quarantine such forms as may be prescribed by regulations. These certificates shall be delivered to the quarantine boarding officer at the ports of entry.

SEC. 9. Certificates of quarantine discharge.—It shall be unlawful for any vessel or aircraft from a foreign country to call at any seaport or airport in the Philippines, to discharge its cargo, or land its passengers except when certified by the quarantine officer that the regulations prescribed under this Act have in all respects been complied with by such vessel or aircraft. This certificate of quarantine discharge shall be a prerequisite to Customs clearance.

SEC. 10. Certificate of outgoing vessel or aircraft.—No vessel or aircraft shall leave any seaport or airport of the Philippines without procuring a sanitary port statement certifying, among other things, compliance with quarantine laws and regulations. This certificate shall be a prerequisite to Customs clearance of outgoing vessels or aircraft.

SEC. 11. Penalties.—

- Any person who violates any regulations prescribed under sections five, six, eight, nine and ten or who enters or departs from the limits of quarantine detention station, ground, anchorage, in violation of quarantine rules and regulations without permission from the quarantine officer in charge, shall be punished by a fine of not more than two thousand pesos or by imprisonment of not more than one year or both at the discretion of the Court of competent jurisdiction.

- Any vessel or aircraft which violates any provision of this Act, shall forfeit to the Government of the Philippines not more than ten thousand pesos, the amount to be determined by the Collector of Customs, which shall be made a lien on such vessel.

SEC. 12. Repealing clause.—All the provisions of sections eleven hundred and thirty, eleven hundred and thirty-one, eleven hundred and thirty-two, eleven hundred and thirty-three, eleven hundred and thirty-four, eleven hundred and thirty-five and eleven hundred and thirty-six of the Revised Administrative Code of nineteen hundred and seventeen, and all acts, rules and regulations regarding foreign and local quarantine not consistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 13. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved, June 14, 1947.

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