

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

9 APR 20 P 3:51

SENATE
S. B. No. 3170

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides:

The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Recent developments and advancements in medicine and technology have made possible the transplantation of human organs, tissues or parts from one person to another. The demand for organs, tissues or parts has grown at a steadily increasing pace in the market. Human organ and tissue trading has become lucrative business, a source of easy but big profit.

Many people are lured into selling their organs, tissues or parts with the promise of money as consideration. In the present set up, it is usually the poor and uneducated that are lured into selling their organs, tissues or parts for the benefit of rich recipients.

Commodification of human organs, tissues or parts has led to exploitation born out of social inequalities among the members of society. It is a policy under the Constitution for the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Commercialization of human organs is an affront to this policy. Social justice also demands that the state protect those who are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

When the government ventured into medical tourism in the year 2005, health facilities opened their services to foreign patients. Within two (2) years, hundreds of patients from foreign countries such as but not limited to the United States of America, Canada, Korea, Japan as well as states in the Middle East and South Pacific had visited the Philippines for medical purposes, many for organ (mostly kidney) transplantation. According to the Department of Health (DOH), twenty (20) medical facilities in Metro Manila alone perform organ transplantation. Seven of these facilities were found to have

violated a DOH Administrative Order mandating that only ten percent (10%) of organ transplantation should be for foreign recipients. According to the Philippine Society of Nephrology, there were four hundred (400) documented kidney transplants from local donors to foreign recipients between the years 2002 and 2005 or more than forty percent (40%) of total kidney transplants despite the ten percent (10%) limit on foreign beneficiaries. By 2007, the number of foreign recipients had reached five hundred twenty eight (528) for that year alone, even more than the number of Filipino recipients.

Dr. Alberto Chua of the Philippine Society of Nephrology and the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical also revealed that seventy-five percent (75%) of these foreign recipients were Middle Eastern nationals. Protests from concerned medical professionals and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) caught the attention of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and resulted in a Presidential Directive to the DOH to totally ban organ transplantation to foreigners in the Philippines in March of 2008.

The current system to supervise organ transplantation is not enough to deter unscrupulous individuals from exploiting poor Filipinos into organ trade. According to Santosh Digal in an Asia News report dated February 9, 2007, more than three thousand (3,000) Filipinos have been victims of kidney trading.

This bill aims to prohibit this form of commodification and penalize those who would engage in the same.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE
2 COMMERCIALIZATION OF HUMAN ORGANS,
3 TISSUES OR PARTS OF LIVING PERSONS

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Commercialization of
7 Human Organs, Tissues or Parts of Living Persons Act of 2009.”

8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State values the dignity of every human person
9 and guarantees the respect of human dignity. The State protects and promotes the right to health
10 of the people. It recognizes the need to prevent commercial trade and trafficking in human
11 organs and tissues of living persons and gives highest priority to the enactment of measures and
12 development of programs, projects and policies that will promote human dignity and the health
13 of the people, protect them from any threat of violence and exploitation, and prevent and
14 eliminate commercial trade and trafficking in human organs, tissues or parts.

15 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

16 (a) Advertisement – includes any form of advertising or the promotion of goods, services
17 or ideas through paid or unpaid announcements in print, broadcast or electronic media whether to
18 the public generally or to any section of the public or individually to selected persons for the
19 purpose of promoting commercial dealings in human organs, tissues or parts;

20 (b) Commercial Dealings – refers to: (1) the sale, barter, or any transaction of human
21 organs, tissues or parts which involves consideration in whatever form; (2) any transaction
22 involving the trafficking of persons for the purpose of sale of human organs, tissues or parts

1 through whatever means; and, (3) acting as a broker or participating in any way for such
2 transactions for any consideration in violation of this Act; Provided, that the parties are not
3 legally married or genetically related up to the fourth (4th) degree of consanguinity;

4 (c) Hospital – a facility devoted primarily to the diagnosis, treatment and care of
5 individuals suffering from illness, disease, injury or deformity, or in need of surgical, obstetrical
6 or other medical and nursing care. It shall also be construed as any institution, building or place
7 where there are facilities and personnel for the aforementioned purposes. It includes but is not
8 limited to a nursing home, clinic, medical center, medical teaching institution and other similar
9 institutions;

10 (d) Human organ – includes, but is not limited to human kidney, liver, heart, lung,
11 pancreas, cornea, skin or any other human organ or part or any nonrenewable or nonregenerative
12 tissue;

13 (e) Organ/Tissue Bank or Storage Facility - a facility licensed, accredited or approved
14 under the law for storage of human bodies, organs or parts thereof;

15 (f) Medical Practitioner – refers to any physician, dentist, nurse, pharmacist or
16 paramedical or other supporting personnel (including medical and dental technicians, nursing
17 assistants, and therapists);

18 (g) Allowable Reimbursement – refers to the reasonable costs incurred by a donor
19 associated with the legal removal, storage, transportation, and transplantation of a human organ,
20 tissue or part, or the expenses of travel, housing, and lost wages, medical expenses and insurance
21 of the donor for death or complications that arise from the donation;

22 (h) Organ Provider – refers to the person from whom the Organ/Tissue is taken.

23 SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts.* – It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or juridical, to
24 commit any of the following acts:

25 (a) To advertise or cause to be advertised in any manner, whether formally or informally
26 through print, broadcast or electronic media including the internet an offer to sell, barter or
27 transact in human organs, tissues or parts or an offer to acquire, buy or receive human organs,

1 tissues or parts for consideration in whatever form or any material that promotes commercial
2 dealings in human organs, tissues or parts;

3 (b) To recruit, transport, transfer, harbor, provide, or maintain a person by any means, for
4 the sale, barter, or any transaction of human organs, tissues or parts which involves consideration
5 in whatever form;

6 (c) To offer consideration in money, kind or services for the purpose of acquiring,
7 buying, offering, selling, or trading human organs, tissues or parts;

8 (d) To act as a facilitator, middleman, broker or play other or similar roles in the sale,
9 barter or other transaction of human organs, tissues or parts for consideration in whatever form;

10 (e) To engage in the trade, sale, barter or other transaction of human organs, tissues or
11 parts for consideration in whatever form;

12 (f) To store or handle human organs, tissues or parts that have been acquired or
13 transferred or sold for consideration in whatever form;

14 (g) To deliver, transport, transfer or distribute human organs, tissues or parts that have
15 been acquired or transferred or sold for consideration in whatever form;

16 (h) To remove or transplant or participate in the removal or transplantation of human
17 organs, tissues or parts that have been acquired or transferred or sold for consideration in
18 whatever form;

19 (i) To offer to supply human organs, tissues or parts for consideration or initiate or
20 negotiate any arrangement for the supply thereof or for an offer to supply human organs, tissues
21 or parts;

22 (j) To recruit or invite persons to supply human organs, tissues or parts for consideration;

23 (k) To make or receive payment for the supply of or for an offer to supply human organs,
24 tissues or parts.

25 SECTION 5. *Acts that Promote or Facilitate Commercialization of Human Organs,*
26 *Tissues or Parts.* – The following acts which promote or facilitate commercialization of human
27 organs, tissues or parts shall be unlawful:

28 (a) To lease or sublease, use or allow to be used any house, building or establishment for
29 the purpose of promoting commercial dealings in human organs, tissues or parts;

1 (b) To produce, print, issue or distribute publications which include advertisements of the
2 sale, barter, or other transactions on human organs, tissues or parts for consideration in whatever
3 form;

4 (c) To maintain a data bank of prospective commercial donors. The Philippine Board of
5 Organ Donation and Transplantation established under this Act shall promulgate rules to provide
6 for proper authorization of data bank of prospective donors.

7 SECTION 6. *Qualified Commercialization of Human Organs or Tissues.* – If any acts
8 under Section 4 and 5 are committed under the following circumstances, the crime committed
9 shall be qualified commercialization of human organs and tissues:

10 (a) When the crime is committed by a syndicate, or in large scale. Commercial dealing in
11 human organs, tissues or parts is deemed committed by a syndicate if carried out by a group of
12 three (3) or more persons conspiring or confederating with one another. It is deemed committed
13 in large scale if committed against three (3) or more persons, individually or as a group;

14 (b) When the offender is a medical practitioner, doctor or physician or when the offense
15 is committed by a public officer or employee or a law enforcer or member of the military;

16 (c) When the crime is committed by a corporation, association or a group;

17 (d) When the victim of the crime is a minor or is already of age but unable to fully take
18 care of himself or protect himself from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination
19 because of a physical or mental disability or economic vulnerability;

20 (e) When the victim was forced to enter into the commercial dealing of his/her organs,
21 tissues or parts by force, violence, intimidation, threat, fraudulent machinations, grave abuse of
22 authority or other similar means which vitiate free will and consent;

23 (f) When the organ provider suffers severe complications as a result of organ removal or
24 died as a consequence thereof; and

25 (g) When the tissue/organ is transported, or when there is attempt to transfer the
26 tissue/organ outside Philippine territory.

27 SECTION 7. *Presumptions.* – Any of the following circumstance shall be considered
28 *prima facie* evidence of commercialization of organs and tissues of living person:

1 (a) When the money or value of the thing or object given to the donor far exceeds the
2 costs of allowable reimbursement that may be received by the donor; and,

3 (b) When the recipient of the organ or tissue is a foreign national not related to the donor
4 up to the fourth (4th) degree of consanguinity.

5 SECTION 8. *Prosecution of Cases.* – Any person who has personal knowledge of the
6 commission of any offense under this Act may file a complaint for commercialization of human
7 organs, tissues or parts of living persons with the Prosecutor where the offense was committed or
8 with the Office of the State Prosecutor of the Department of Justice.

9 SECTION 9. *Venue.* – A criminal action arising from violation of this Act shall be filed
10 where the offense was committed, or where any of its elements occurred: Provided, that the
11 court where the criminal action is first filed shall acquire jurisdiction to the exclusion of other
12 courts.

13 SECTION 10. *Custody.* – When necessary, the organ provider may be placed under the
14 protective custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development pursuant to its
15 mandate under Executive Order No. 292.

16 SECTION 11. *Immunity from Criminal Prosecution.* – The State Prosecutor may exempt
17 from prosecution any person who has personal knowledge of the commission of any of the
18 offenses penalized under the Act and who voluntarily gives material information relative thereto
19 and willingly testifies against the offender for the offense with reference to which his
20 information and testimony were given, notwithstanding any laws or rules on the discharge of the
21 accused to be a state witness, subject to the following conditions:

22 (a) The information and testimony are necessary for the conviction of the accused; and

23 (b) Such information and testimony are not yet in the possession of the state.

24 SECTION 12. *Extraterritorial Protection.* – An organ provider or a prospective organ
25 provider *who is a Filipino national and* allowed the removal of his/her organs, tissues or parts for
26 consideration outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines shall be entitled to protection
27 from the state through the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and its agents, which protection

1 shall include but is not limited to the following; medical assistance, legal assistance,
2 psychosocial services, rehabilitative services and repatriation of victims.

3 The DFA shall monitor cases of Filipino nationals outside of the Philippines who were
4 victimized by commercial dealings in organs, tissues or parts and coordinate with different
5 governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and other support groups to combat
6 commercialization of organs, tissues or parts of Filipino nationals outside of the Philippines.

7 SECTION 13. *Penalties and Sanctions.* – The following penalties and sanctions are
8 hereby established for the offenses enumerated in the Act:

9 (a) Any person found guilty of committing any of the acts enumerated in Section 4
10 shall suffer the penalty of *reclusion temporal* and a fine of not less than One million pesos
11 (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00);

12 (b) Any person found guilty of committing any of the acts enumerated in Section 5
13 shall suffer the penalty of *prision mayor* and a fine of not less than Five hundred thousand pesos
14 (P500,000.00) but not more than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00), except that an organ
15 provider found guilty of committing the Acts provided under Section 5, paragraphs h and k shall
16 suffer the penalty of *arresto mayor* and a fine of not less than One thousand pesos (P 1,000.00)
17 but not more than Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00);

18 (c) Any person found guilty of qualified commercial dealing in human organs or
19 tissues under the circumstances provided in Section 6 shall suffer the penalty of *reclusion*
20 *perpetua* and a fine of not less than Two million pesos (P2,000,000.00) but not more than Five
21 million pesos (P5,000,000.00);

22 (d) If the offender is a corporation, partnership, association, club, establishment or any
23 juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed upon the owner, president, partner, manager, or
24 any responsible officer who participated in the commission of the crime or who shall have
25 knowingly permitted or failed to prevent its commission;

26 (e) The registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and license
27 to operate of the erring corporation, association, or group shall be cancelled and revoked

1 permanently. The owner, president, partner or manager thereof shall not be allowed to operate
2 similar establishments under a different name;

3 (f) If the offender is a hospital, clinic or other similar licensed medical institution, the
4 penalty shall be imposed upon its owner, president, director, members of the board, officials and
5 doctors and/or other members of the medical, nursing and allied staff with knowledge of the
6 illegal acts and participates therein;

7 (g) The license of the hospital, clinic or medical institution with the Department of
8 Health and other regulatory institutions shall be cancelled and revoked permanently and the
9 license to practice of medical, nursing and allied professionals found guilty of the illegal acts
10 shall be cancelled and revoked permanently;

11 (h) If the offender is a foreigner, he shall be immediately deported after serving his
12 sentence and be barred permanently from re-entering the country;

13 (i) Any employee or official of government agencies who shall commit the prohibited
14 acts enumerated under Section 4 and Section 5 shall be held administratively liable, without
15 prejudice to criminal liability under this Act. The concerned government official or employee
16 shall, upon conviction, be dismissed from the service and be barred permanently to hold public
17 office. His/her retirement and other benefits shall likewise be forfeited.

18 SECTION 14. *Prescriptive Period.* – Commercialization in human organs, tissues or
19 parts cases under this Act shall prescribe in ten (10) years; provided however, that cases under
20 Section 6 of this Act shall prescribe in twenty (20) years.

21 The prescriptive period shall commence to run from the day on which the organs, tissues
22 or parts subject of the commercial dealings were removed for the purpose of transplantation or
23 when the crime was discovered by authorities and shall be interrupted by the filing of the
24 complaint or information and shall commence to run again when the proceedings terminate
25 without the accused being convicted or acquitted or unjustifiably stopped for any reason not
26 imputable to the accused.

27 SECTION 15. *Confiscation and Forfeiture of the Proceeds and Instruments Derived from*
28 *Commercial Dealings in Human Organs and Tissues.* – In addition to the penalty imposed for

1 the violation of this Act, the court shall order the confiscation and forfeiture, in favor of the
2 government, of all the proceeds and properties derived from the commission of the crime, unless
3 they are the property of a third person not liable for the unlawful act: Provided, however, that all
4 awards for damages shall be taken from the personal and separate properties of the offender:
5 Provided, further, that if such properties are insufficient, the balance shall be taken from the
6 confiscated and forfeited properties.

7 When the proceeds, properties and instruments of the offense have been destroyed,
8 diminished in value or otherwise rendered worthless by any act or omission, directly or
9 indirectly, of the offender, or have been concealed, removed, converted or transferred to prevent
10 the same from being found or to avoid forfeiture or confiscation, the offender shall be ordered to
11 pay the amount equal to the value of the proceeds, property or instruments of the offense.

12 SECTION 16. *Duty of Hospitals and Organ/Tissue Bank Storage Facility.* – It shall be
13 the duty of all hospitals to ensure that all removal and transplantation of human organs, tissues or
14 parts do not contravene the provisions of this Act and to report to the proper authorities any
15 contravention of this Act. Likewise, it shall be the duty of Organ/Tissue Bank Storage Facility to
16 ensure that all organs, tissues or parts stored in the facility were not acquired or received for
17 consideration in whatever form in contravention of this Act and to report to the proper authorities
18 any contravention of this Act.

19 All hospitals and medical institutions shall create a Hospital Ethics Committee whose
20 purpose is to improve health care delivery and outcomes by helping to identify, analyze and
21 resolve ethical dilemmas as they emerge predominantly through consultation, education and
22 policy development. The Ethics Committee shall make recommendations in determining the
23 ethical principles and policies on organs, tissues or parts transplantation in order to prevent and
24 suppress commercialization in human organs, tissues or parts in their hospitals or institutions,
25 provided that these are in conformity with national ethical standards and policies.

26 All hospitals, medical institutions, organ or tissue bank storage facility shall record all
27 organs, tissues or parts retrieved, the source of the donation, the purpose for the donation, the
28 names, address and contact numbers of the persons concerned including but not limited to the

1 surgeon, donor and recipient, the date of the donation, storage, removal or transplant of the
2 organs, tissues or parts and other relevant information necessary and make a determination that
3 the organs, tissues or parts is not a product of commercialization. The records and documents
4 containing such information shall be made available and transparent to the public.

5 All hospitals, medical institutions, organ or tissue bank storage facility shall submit
6 periodic reports which shall include relevant records and documents to the Philippine Board for
7 Organ Donation and Transplantation as defined under section 18 on their compliance with the
8 provisions of this Act

9 SECTION 17. *Philippine Board for Organ Donation and Transplantation (PBODT).* –

10 There is hereby established a Philippine Board for Organ Donation and Transplantation which
11 shall formulate and oversee the implementation of policies related to organ transplantation. It
12 shall have the following functions:

13 (a) Formulate, review and approve policies in support of a rational, ethical, accessible and
14 equitable organ transplantation program in the country;

15 (b) Set up a system of accreditation of transplant facilities and approve the issuance of a
16 Certificate of Accreditation of transplant facilities;

17 (c) Set the guidelines and overall monitoring and evaluation framework and ensure the
18 proper implementation of this Act;

19 (d) Require the submission of reports from government and non-government agencies
20 concerned with the conduct of programs, projects and policies relating to the implementation of
21 this Act;

22 (e) Submit periodic reports to the President of the Philippines and Congress on the
23 implementation of the provisions of this Act;

24 (f) Determine inherent weaknesses in the law and its implementation and recommend the
25 necessary remedial legislation or executive measures; and

1 (g) Perform such other duties, functions and responsibilities as may be necessary to
2 effectively attain the objectives of this Act.

3 SECTION 18. *Composition of the Board.* – The Philippine Board for Organ Donation
4 and Transplantation shall be composed of the following:

5 (a) The Secretary of Health as Chairperson;

6 (b) The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development as Chairperson; and

7 The following as Members:

8 (a) The Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or his
9 representative;

10 (b) Representative from a government transplant facility on a rotational basis and for a
11 term of two (2) years, to be appointed jointly by the chairpersons;

12 (c) Representative from a private transplant facility, on a rotational basis and for a term of
13 two (2) years, to be appointed jointly by the chairpersons;

14 (d) The President of the Philippine Society of Nephrology;

15 (e) The President of the Philippine Society of Transplant Surgeons;

16 (f) Representative from a Non-Government Organization engaged in health care
17 advocacy, on a rotational basis and for a term of two (2) years, to be appointed jointly by the
18 chairpersons;

19 (g) Expert on bioethics, on a rotational basis and for a term of two (2) years, to be
20 appointed jointly by the chairpersons;

21 SECTION 19. *National Transplant Ethics Committee.* – There is hereby established a
22 National Transplant Ethics Committee which shall formulate national ethical standards or
23 guidelines on organ donation and transplantation for the approval of the Philippine Board for
24 Organ Donation and Transplantation and shall assist the Board in the resolution of ethical issues
25 and in the monitoring of transplant facilities to ensure compliance with ethical standards or

1 guidelines. It shall also perform such other duties, functions and responsibilities assigned by the
2 PBDOT as may be necessary to effectively attain the objective of this Act.

3 SECTION 20. *Composition.* – The National Transplant Ethics Committee shall be
4 appointed by the PBODT and shall be composed of the following:

5 (a) One representative from transplant hospitals, on a rotational basis and for a term of
6 two (2) years;

7 (b) One representative from non-transplant hospitals, on a rotational basis and for a term
8 of two (2) years;

9 (c) A representative from the Department of Health;

10 (d) A representative from the Department of Social Welfare and Development; and

11 (e) Three (3) experts on bioethics, on a rotational basis and for a term of two (2) years in
12 consultation with the academe, Non-Government Organizations or faith-based organization.

13 The members of the Committee shall designate their Chairman by a majority vote.

14 SECTION 21. *Honoraria or Emoluments.* – The Members of the PBODT or their
15 designated permanent representatives shall receive honoraria or emoluments as may be
16 determined by the Board in accordance with existing budget and accounting rules and
17 regulations. In the same manner, the Members of the National Transplant Ethics Committee
18 shall receive honoraria or emoluments.

19 SECTION 22. *Adoption of Board Rules and Regulations.* – In aid of its oversight
20 functions, the Philippine Board for Organ Donation and Transplantation shall adopt its internal
21 rules of procedure, conduct investigations and receive testimonies, reports, and technical advice,
22 invite or summon any public official, private citizen, or any other person to appear before it, or
23 require any person to produce documents or other materials as it may need consistent with the
24 provisions of this Act.

1 The Philippine Board for Organ Donation and Transplantation shall be assisted by a
2 secretariat to be composed of personnel that may be seconded from the Departments involved.
3 The PBODT may retain consultants and other employees.

4 In the same manner, the members of the National Transplant Ethics Committee shall
5 adopt its rules of procedure and shall be assisted by a Secretariat.

6 SECTION 23. *Programs against Commercialization of Human Organs, Tissues or Parts.*

7 -- There shall be a comprehensive program to be formulated by the Philippine Board for Organ
8 Donation and Transplantation in coordination with other government agencies and private sector
9 concerned, within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, to prevent commercialization of
10 human organs, tissues or parts of living persons for consideration in whatever form. Within the
11 same period, the PBODT shall also establish a comprehensive program for deceased organs,
12 tissues or parts donation. The program for deceased organs, tissues or parts donation shall be
13 without prejudice to living donation of organ, tissue and part, provided that this is done without
14 consideration of whatever means in violation of this Act.

15 The Board shall initiate and sustain an intensified nationwide public education campaign
16 to raise the level of public awareness on commercialization of organs, tissues or parts of living
17 persons and organ trafficking and to promote deceased organs, tissues or parts donation.

18 SECTION 24. *Appropriation.* – Congress shall appropriate the amount of Fifty Million
19 Pesos (50,000,000 Php) for the initial implementation of this Act. Out of the total amount,
20 Twenty Four Million Pesos (24,000,000 Php) shall be allocated for advocacy and promotion of
21 deceased organs, tissues or parts donation and the initial implementation of the Comprehensive
22 Program for Deceased Organs, tissues or parts Donation, Twenty Four Million Pesos
23 (24,000,000 Php) shall be allocated for the initial formulation and implementation of the
24 Comprehensive Program Against Commercialization of Human Organs, tissues or parts, and
25 Two Million Pesos (2,000,000 Php) shall be allocated for administrative expenses incidental to
26 the implementation of the aforementioned Programs.

1 After the initial implementation of this Act, the amount necessary to carry out the
2 Program is hereby authorized to be appropriated under the regular budget of the Department of
3 Health.

4 SECTION 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Philippine Board for Organ
5 Donation and Transplantation shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations
6 within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

7 SECTION 26. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
8 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
9 valid and subsisting.

10 SECTION 27. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
11 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
12 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

13 SECTION 28. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

15 Approved,

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