

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9 SEP 24 13:42

SENATE

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 651

Submitted by the Committee on Justice and Human Rights on
SEP 24 2009.

Re: Senate Bill No. 3460.

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2081 and 1999, taking into consideration P.S. Res. Nos. 124 and 304.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Justice and Human Rights, to which were referred Senate Bill No. 1999, introduced by Senator Antonio F. Trillanes IV, entitled:

"AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6981 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'WITNESS
PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT ACT' AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

and Senate Bill No. 2081, introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan, entitled:

"AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6981 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A WITNESS PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT
PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

taking into consideration P. S. Res. No. 124, introduced by Senator Francis G. Escudero entitled:

"RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE
APPARENTLY DETERIORATING SIGNIFICANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF
THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM AS DEFINED AND ESTABLISHED
UNDER THE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 6981"

and P. S. Res. No. 304, introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II, entitled:

**“RESOLUTION
CALLING FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A STUDY THAT
WILL CREATE A WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM IN THE SENATE TO SET
IN PLACE SECURITY AND SUPPORT MECHANISM FOR RESOURCE PERSONS
PROVIDING VITAL INFORMATION TO ANY COMMITTEE CONDUCTING
INQUIRIES OR INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION WHOSE
TESTIMONIES CAN PUT INTO RISK THEIR LIVES AND ECONOMIC
STATURES”**

has considered the same and has the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached Senate Bill No. ~~3460~~ prepared by the Committee, entitled:

**“AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6981 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“WITNESS PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT ACT”**

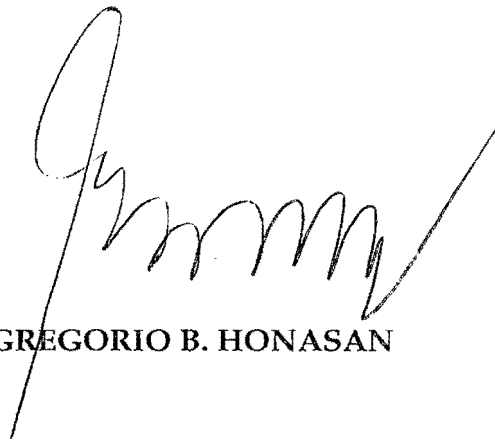
be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2081 and 1999, taking into consideration P.S. Res. Nos. 124 and 304, with Senators Trillanes, Pangilinan, Honasan and Escudero as authors thereof.

Respectfully Submitted:



FRANCIS JOSEPH G. ESCUDERO
Chairman

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
Vice-Chairman




GREGORIO B. HONASAN


Members:



MAR ROXAS



RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

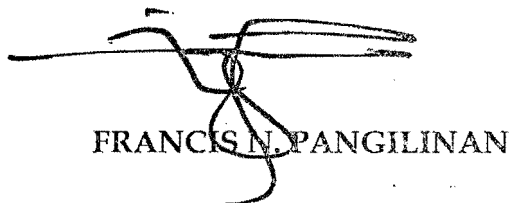


M. A. MADRIGAL



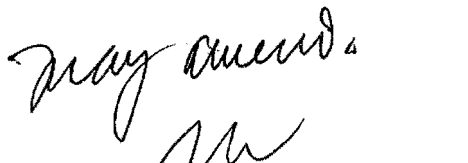
RODOLFO G. BIAZON

ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN


Ex-Officio Members:




AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.
Senate Minority Floor Leader



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Senate Majority Floor Leader



JINGOY EJERCITO-ESTRADA
Senate President-Pro Tempore



HON. JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senate President
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 3460

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Prepared by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights with Senators Trillanes,
Pangilinan, Honasan and Escudero as authors

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6981, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"WITNESS PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFIT ACT"

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Witness Protection, Security and
2 Benefit Act of 2009"

3
4 SEC. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6981 is hereby amended to read as
5 follows:

6
7 "Section 4. *Witness in Legislative Investigations.* - In case of legislative
8 investigations in aid of legislation, [a witness] **THE SENATE OF THE**
9 **PHILIPPINES OR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS THE CASE**
10 **MAY BE, SHALL PROVIDE FOR A SEPARATE "WITNESS PROTECTION,**
11 **SECURITY AND BENEFIT PROGRAM" FOR THE RESOURCE PERSONS**
12 **AND/OR WITNESSES. THE WITNESS AND/OR RESOURCE PERSON,** with
13 his express consent, may be admitted into the Program upon the
14 recommendation of the legislative committee where his/her testimony is needed
15 when in its judgment there is pressing necessity therefor: Provided, That such
16 recommendation is approved by the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the
17 House of Representatives, as the case may be.

18
19 **THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES OR THE HOUSE OF**
20 **REPRESENTATIVES, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL HAVE PRIMARY**

1 JURISDICTION IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
2 THE PROGRAM. CONGRESS MAY REQUEST THE NECESSARY
3 ASSISTANCE FROM ANY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU, OFFICE OR ANY
4 OTHER EXECUTIVE AGENCY TO ASSIST WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION
5 OF THE PROGRAM.
6

7 HOWEVER, THE PROGRAM SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE
8 SENATE OR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INDEPENDENT FROM
9 ANY OTHER DEPARTMENT, BUREAU, OFFICE OR ANY OTHER
10 EXECUTIVE AGENCY WHEN IT IS APPARENT THAT THE
11 INVESTIGATION MIGHT BE PREJUDICED AND/OR WHEN THE SAFETY
12 OF THE WITNESS MIGHT BE JEOPARDIZED ESPECIALLY WHEN THE
13 PUBLIC OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED.
14

15 CONGRESS MAY PROMULGATE ITS OWN RULES AND
16 REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROVISION."
17

18 **SEC. 3.** Section 8 (e) and (g) of the same Act are hereby amended to read as
19 follows:
20

21 "SEC. 8. *Rights and Benefits.* - The witness shall have the following rights and
22 benefits:
23

24 x x x
25

26 (e.) To be provided with free medical treatment, hospitalization and
27 medicines for any injury or illness incurred or suffered by him because of
28 witness duty **OR WHILE IN THE SAFEHOUSE** in any private or public
29 hospital, clinic, or such institution at the expense of the Program.
30

31 x x x
32

33 (g.) [In case of death or permanent incapacity, his] **THE WITNESS'**
34 minor or dependent children shall be entitled to free education, from
35 primary to college level in any state, or private school, college or
36 university [as may be determined by the Department,] as long as they
37 shall have qualified thereto."
38

39 **SEC. 4.** A new section, Section 12-A, shall be inserted under Section 12 of the
40 same Act, which shall read as follows:
41

42 **SEC. 12-A. PERPETUATION OF TESTIMONY.** -- ONCE ADMITTED INTO
43 THE PROGRAM, A WITNESS MAY PERPETUATE HIS TESTIMONY
44 PURSUANT TO RULE 134 OF THE REVISED RULES OF COURT.

