

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session

'04 JUN 30 P8:41

SENATE

S. No. 616

RECEIVED BY: Alu

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

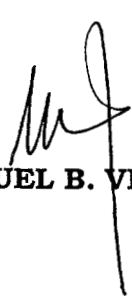
EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has come to our attention that the use of ambulances for non-medical and non-emergency purposes is becoming a prevalent practice in many municipalities and cities.

Such practice is detestable since it hinders the delivery of a fast and effective medical care to the people, especially in emergency cases where the life of a patient is at stake.

Hence, this bill seeks to regulate the use of government ambulances.

For the protection of the people's health and well-being, immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT
REGULATING THE USE OF GOVERNMENT AMBULANCES,
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE.**

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby prohibited for all government officials and employees, particularly those of the Department of Health (DOJ), and the local government units owning or operating government ambulances, to secure, appropriate or use such vehicles for any purpose other than the transport of patients.

SECTION 2. The government ambulance shall be under the joint custody of the local chief executive and the health officers concerned, and shall be assigned, at least, one (1) driver thereafter. Upon the end of the local chief executive's term or in case he is disqualified as an officer, he shall turn over the custody thereof to his successor at least two (2) weeks before his last day of office. In like manner, in case the health officer concerned is disqualified or is separated from the service, he shall turn over the custody thereof to his successor at least two (2) weeks before his last day of office.

SECTION 3. Any elective government official or any government employee found guilty after due notice and hearing of violating the provisions of this Act, or its implementing rules and regulations duly promulgated by the Secretary of Health, shall be punished with a fine of not less than the equivalent of six (6) months salary for the first offense and dismissal from the service and disqualification from holding any public office on the second offense.

Any appointive government official found guilty after due notice and hearing of violating Sections 1 or 2 of this Act shall be punished with dismissal from the service, deprivation of all benefits, disqualification from holding any public office and a fine of not less than the equivalent of eight (8) months salary.

SECTION 4. An elective official having temporary custody of a donated ambulance who delays for more than two (2) weeks without reasonable cause, the delivery or turn-over of said ambulance to the intended beneficiary shall, after conviction by the court acquiring original jurisdiction, be disqualified to run for public office in the succeeding

elections. If he is an appointive official, the sanctions provided in the last paragraph of the preceding section shall be imposed.

SECTION 5. In case such government ambulance is used in the commission of a crime, the person or persons responsible therefore shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed in Section 4 hereof, be subject to prosecution under the particular provision of the Revised Penal Code, or of the special law applicable to the offense committed.

SECTION 6. The Secretary of Health shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations and/or guidelines for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. The amount necessary for the implementations of this Act shall be charged to the budget of the local government units concerned.

SECTION 8. Any provision of law, presidential decree, executive order, circular, instructions or rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,