


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



'15 JUN 10 P6:17

SENATE
S.B. No. 2844

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
AFFORDING STATUS TO A DESERTED OR ABANDONED CHILD WITH
UNKNOWN PARENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Most of the matters related with the legal status of a child depend upon the parents. The fact of his legitimacy, the nature of his citizenship and the manner by which he may conduct himself with his society are dictated to the most extent by the status of his parents. A child of married parents is legitimate while those born out of wedlock are illegitimate. Though born illegitimate, a child may bear the father's name. Children of Filipino parents are citizens of the Philippines. These matters may readily be discerned not only because there are laws governing the same, but also most importantly the identities of the parents are established.

But how about infants left to be found in the doors of churches and trash cans, which have been common nowadays? What about those children who have been abandoned who never had any idea of how their parents look lest knew the identities of the people who brought them to life? It has been unfair for them to be left to fend for themselves at a very young age and worse, much of the opportunities related with status may not be available to them.

This measure seeks to correct the inequity created by irresponsible parents who chose to abandon their child to live with undefined status in the society.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID 



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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 "Foundling Recognition Act of
2 2015".
3

4 **Section 2.** For purposes of this Act, a *foundling* shall be a deserted or
5 abandoned child or infant the identities of any parent are unknown. The
6 *founder* shall be a person of legal age who discovered the deserted or
7 abandoned child. Status shall refer to the relationship of the child with
8 the community including legitimacy and citizenship.
9

10 **Section 3.** For all legal intents and purposes, a foundling shall be
11 recognized as the child of the founder from the time of his birth, provided
12 that the foundling has lived and depended with the founder until the
13 foundling reaches the age of majority; and provided further that the
14 founder and the foundling has conducted as and made known themselves
15 to be parent and child to their community. If the founder is married at the
16 time the foundling was discovered, the foundling shall be considered the
17 child of the founder and his spouse.
18

19 **Section 4.** The Department of Social Welfare and Development,
20 Department of Justice and the Philippine Statistics Authority is hereby
21 directed to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the efficient
22 implementation of this Act.

1 **Section 5. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision or part of this Act is
2 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions that are not affected
3 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4 **Section 6. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, orders, rules and regulations, or
5 parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
6 hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

7 **Section 7. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
9 general circulation.

Adopted,