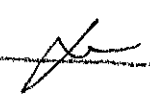


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2 OF 22 RECEIVED BY

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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 2576

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 338 & 616 and House Bill No. 1773)

Prepared jointly by the Committees on Health and Demography; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization; with Senators Osmeña, Villar, Cayetano and Lacson as authors

**AN ACT REGULATING
THE USE OF GOVERNMENT AMBULANCES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Definition.** As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean as
2 follows:

3
4 (a) **Emergency** refers to a condition or state of a patient where there is immediate
5 danger on the life or health of the patient and where delay in initial support and
6 treatment may cause loss of life or serious disability to the patient; or where
7 conveyance of a patient to a hospital for diagnostic or therapeutic treatment is
8 necessary considering the nature of the patient's injury or sickness.

9 (b) **Government Ambulance** refers to a vehicle fully or partially equipped with
10 Emergency life-saving devices and equipment intended to carry or transport
11 seriously sick or injured persons or patients in Emergency situations. These are
12 acquired using government funds or donated for government use, regardless of
13 source.

14 (c) **LCE** refers to the Local Chief Executive.
15

16 **SECTION 2. Responsibility and Custody Over Government Ambulances**
17 **Assigned or Donated To Local Government Units (LGUs)-** Any Government
18 Ambulance acquired by or donated to LGUs shall be under the responsibility of the
19 LCE concerned, *Provided,* that the LCE shall authorize the local health officer
20 concerned to have custody over the Government Ambulance and shall not in any way

1 interfere with the use of the Government Ambulance except to order its use in an
2 Emergency situation.

3 Upon the end of the LCE's term of office or in case he is disqualified or removed
4 from office for whatever cause, he shall turn over the responsibility of the Government
5 Ambulance to the incoming LCE or the person next in rank by rule of succession in the
6 Local Government Code within fifteen (15) days from his last day in office.

7

8 **SECTION 3. Duties of LCEs and Local Health Officers. –**

9

10 (a) It shall be the duty of any LCE to ensure that the Government Ambulance is
11 at the full disposal of the health officer for any Emergency.

12 (b) It shall be the duty of the LCE to ensure the inclusion of an appropriation for
13 the salary of a regular driver for every Government Ambulance and the
14 *provision for the maintenance* of each Government Ambulance in its annual
15 budget.

16 (c) It shall be the duty of the local health officer concerned to ensure the
17 availability of the Government Ambulance for the immediate use of the
18 residents of the LGUs who are in an Emergency situation.

19

20 **SECTION 4. Prohibited Acts. –** A Government Ambulance should be used only
21 for Emergency cases, *Provided*, that the following use of any Government Ambulance in
22 non-Emergency cases may be allowed: (a) medical outreach missions; and (b) other
23 related hospital operations, *Provided further*, that such use will not interfere with the
24 regular use of the Government Ambulance for Emergency cases and that the use of the
25 Government Ambulance for Emergency cases should, at all times, prevail even if the
26 Government Ambulance is being used in a non-Emergency situation.

27

28 The following acts are prohibited:

29

30 (a) It shall be unlawful for any public official or employee to use any
31 Government Ambulance as office service vehicle for recreation or for
32 personal use or for any other purpose whatsoever, inconsistent with the
33 purposes of a Government Ambulance as defined in Section 1 of this Act;

34 (b) It shall be unlawful for any public official or employee to use any
35 Government Ambulance in the transportation of patients not in Emergency
36 situation unless there is another Government Ambulance available to
37 respond to any Emergency or when no other means of transportation is
38 available;

- 1 (c) It shall be unlawful for any public officer or employee to allow the use of any
2 Government Ambulance by individuals or entities for any use other than in
3 an Emergency, whether or not for a fee;
- 4 (d) It shall be unlawful for any public officer or employee to refuse the use of
5 any Government Ambulance for any patient entitled to its use due to the
6 patient's inability to pay any fee collected for its use; or discriminate in its
7 use on account of religious beliefs, gender, economic status, political
8 affiliations or whatever cause contrary to law, public policy or good customs;
- 9 (e) It shall be unlawful for any public officer or employee to paint over or allow
10 the painting over or in any other way, alter the appearance of any
11 Government Ambulance to circumvent the provisions of this Act; and
- 12 (f) It shall be unlawful to use deceptive measures such as sirens or the printing
13 of the word "Ambulance" on the vehicle's body of any privately-owned or
14 government-owned vehicle to make it appear as a Government Ambulance
15 when it is not.

16
17 **SECTION 5. *Penalty Clause*** – Violations of Section 2, paragraph 2 and Sections
18 3 and 4 hereof shall be penalized by:

- 19
20 (a) Fine in an amount not exceeding six months' salary for the first offense;
21 (b) Suspension from office without pay for not more than one year for the
22 second offense; and
23 (c) Termination from service with forfeiture of retirement benefits and
24 disqualification from public service for the third offense.

25
26 **SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations***. – The Secretary of the
27 Department of Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the Secretaries of the
28 Departments of Health and Transportation and Communications, and concerned
29 sectors shall issue such guidelines, orders or rules and regulations as may be
30 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

31
32 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause***. – If any provision of this Act or the application
33 of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the
34 remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or
35 circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

1 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, decrees, proclamations,
2 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
3 hereby repealed on modified accordingly.

4

5 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15)
6 days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper
7 of general circulation in the Philippines.

8

9 *Approved,*

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