

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 27 PM '86

SENATE
S. B. No. 2173

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is an urgent need to provide protection and security to witnesses and/or resource persons who attend legislative investigations in aid of legislation conducted by the Congress of the Philippines. The present law should be amended in order to improve the conditions and procedures for providing protection and assistance to a witness in legislative investigations when reasonable fear exists that testifying for the purpose of giving evidence and/or testimony during the investigation on criminal offenses in connection with which the protection may be provided under the present Law, would expose the witness to severe danger to his/her life, health, freedom, corporal inviolability or property, where other measures do not suffice. The object of this bill is to ensure that the due administration of justice in legislative investigations is not prejudiced by witnesses not being given protection relative to his/her testimony in said proceedings. The paramount consideration is to provide for the safety and well-being of witnesses in legislative investigations who, unless protected, may not give evidence for fear of death, violence or serious injury by criminal interests likely to be affected by the proceedings, and for related purposes.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

10 JUL 27 P5:36

SENATE
S.B. NO. **2173**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

**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**

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6981 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

13 **THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES OR THE HOUSE OF**
14 **REPRESENTATIVES, AS THE CASE MAY BE, SHALL HAVE**
15 **PRIMARY JURISDICTION AS TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND**
16 **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM. THE CONGRESS MAY**
17 **REQUEST THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE FROM ANY**
18 **DEPARTMENT, BUREAU, OFFICE OR ANY OTHER EXECUTIVE**
19 **AGENCY TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE**
20 **PROGRAM.**

1 HOWEVER, THE PROGRAM SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED BY
2 THE SENATE OR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 INDEPENDENT FROM ANY OTHER ANY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU,
4 OFFICE OR ANY OTHER EXECUTIVE AGENCY WHEN IT IS APPARENT
5 THAT THE INVESTIGATION MIGHT BE PREJUDICED AND/OR WHEN
6 THE SAFETY OF THE WITNESS MIGHT BE JEOPARDIZED
7 ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PUBLIC OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED.
8 CONGRESS MAY PROMULGATE ITS OWN RULES AND
9 REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROVISION."

10 SEC. 2. All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and
11 regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or
12 modified accordingly.

13 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) *days after* its complete publication
14 in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation
15 whichever comes first.

16
17 Approved,