



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

II. No. 5268

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BY REPRESENTATIVES MANALO, CO, BATOCABE, RODRIGUEZ (R.),  
NOGRALES, MENDOZA (R.), HICAP, MAGSAYSAY, ALEJANO, ARENAS,  
REVILLA, PAQUIZ, TAMBUNTING, ABELLANOSA, VILLARICA, AGLIPAY,  
FERRER (L.), ONG, SY-ALVARADO, TAN (A.), COLLANTES, BELLO (W.),  
DELA CRUZ, AND PICHAY, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 509

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AN ACT PROTECTING SEAFARERS AND OTHER WORKERS  
AGAINST AMBULANCE CHASING AND PROVIDING  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

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

1           SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Ambulance Chasing  
2 Act".

3           SEC. 2. *Prohibition of Ambulance Chasing.* — It shall be unlawful for  
4 any person to engage in soliciting, personally or through an agent, from  
5 seafarers or other workers or their heirs, the pursuit of any claim against an  
6 employer for the recovery of monetary claim or benefit, including legal  
7 interest, arising from accidents, illness or death, in exchange for a certain

1 amount which shall be retained or deducted from the amount of the monetary  
2 claim or benefit granted to or awarded to the seafarer or other worker or heirs  
3 thereof.

4       SEC. 3. *Attorney's Fees.* – Any lawyer who appears as counsel for  
5 the seafarer or other worker or their heirs in any case before the National Labor  
6 Relations Commission (NLRC) or any labor arbiter, the National Conciliation  
7 and Mediation Board (NCMB), the Philippine Overseas Employment  
8 Administration (POEA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) or  
9 its regional offices, or other quasi-judicial bodies handling labor disputes shall  
10 be entitled to attorney's fees not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the  
11 compensation or benefit awarded to the seafarer or other worker or heirs  
12 thereof, which fees shall not be payable before the actual payment of the  
13 compensation or benefit. Any stipulation to the contrary shall be null and void.

14       SEC. 4. *Penalties.* – Any person who violates Section 2 of this Act  
15 shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)  
16 but not more than one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or by  
17 imprisonment of one (1) year but not more than two (2) years, or both fine and  
18 imprisonment. The same penalties shall be imposed upon any person who  
19 shall be in collusion in the commission of the prohibited act in Section 2  
20 hereof.

21       SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90)  
22 days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Labor and Employment  
23 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
24 implementation of the provisions of this Act.

25       SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, decrees,  
26 rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
27 repealed or modified accordingly.

1           SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
2 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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