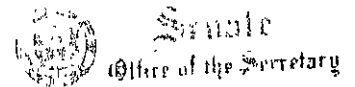



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



15 JUN -9 P1:41

SENATE

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 177

RECEIVED BY: 

Submitted by the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development on JUN 09 2015.

Re: Senate Bill No. 2835

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2627, taking into consideration House Bill No. 5268.

Sponsor: Senator Sonny Angara

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development to which was referred Senate Bill No. 2627, introduced by Senator Sonny Angara, entitled:

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

and taking into consideration House Bill No. 5268, introduced by Reps. 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 entitled,

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

has considered the same and has the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached bill, Senate Bill No. 2835, prepared by the Committee, entitled:

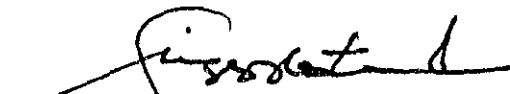
**AN ACT  
PROTECTING SEAFARERS AND OTHER WORKERS SIMILARLY  
SITUATED AGAINST AMBULANCE CHASING AND PROVIDING  
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2627 with Senator Sonny Angara as author.

*Respectfully submitted,*

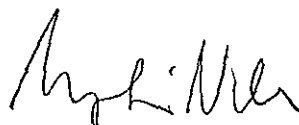


**SONNY ANGARA**  
*Acting Chairman*  
*Committee on Labor, Employment*  
*and Human Resources Development*



**JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**  
*Chairman*  
*Committee on Labor, Employment*  
*and Human Resources Development*

*Members:*



**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**



**LOREN B. LEGARDA**

**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**



**TEOFISTO L. GUINGONA III**



**FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.**

**FRANCIS "CHIZ" G. ESCUDERO**



**GRACE POE**

**ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV**

**PIA S. CAYETANO**



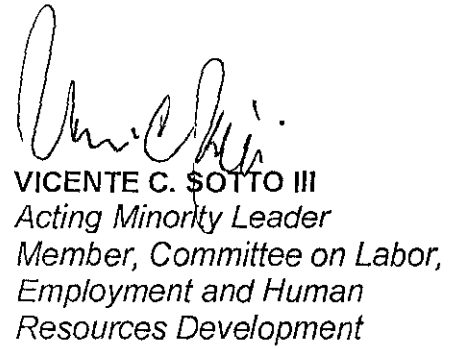
**JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**

Ex-Officio Members:



**RALPH G. RECTO**  
*Pro-Tempore*

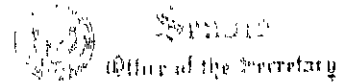
**ALAN PETER "COMPANERO" S. CAYETANO**  
*Majority Leader*



**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**  
*Acting Minority Leader*  
*Member, Committee on Labor,*  
*Employment and Human*  
*Resources Development*

**HON. FRANKLIN M. DRILON**  
*President*  
Senate of the Philippines

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



15 JUN -9 P1:41

SENATE  
S. No. 2835

RECEIVED BY. J

(In substitution of S.B. No. 2627, taking into consideration H. No. 5268)

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Prepared by the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources  
Development with Senator Sonny Angara as author thereof

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**AN ACT  
PROTECTING SEAFARERS AND OTHER WORKERS SIMILARLY SITUATED  
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 Act".

2  
3           **SECTION 2. *Prohibition of Ambulance Chasing.*** – It shall be unlawful for  
4 any person to engage in ambulance chasing or the act of soliciting, personally or  
5 through an agent, from seafarers and other workers similarly situated, or their heirs,  
6 the pursuit of any claim against an employer for the purpose of recovery of monetary  
7 claim or benefit, including legal interest, arising from accident, illness or death, in  
8 exchange of an amount or fee which shall be retained or deducted from the  
9 monetary claim or benefit granted to or awarded to the seafarer or other workers  
10 similarly situated or heirs thereof. The Secretary of Labor and Employment shall,  
11 through the appropriate rules and regulations, determine such other workers similarly  
12 situated as seafarers, using reasonable criteria.

13  
14           **SECTION 3. *Compensation or Benefit.*** – Any contract or arrangement  
15 between the seafarer or other workers similarly situated or their heirs, and the  
16 person who appears for or represents them in any case before the National Labor

1 Relations Commission (NLRC) or any labor arbiter, the National Conciliation and  
2 Mediation Board (NCMB), the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration  
3 (POEA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) or its regional offices, or  
4 other quasi-judicial bodies handling labor disputes stipulating that the person who  
5 appears for or represents them shall be entitled to fees exceeding ten percent (10%)  
6 of the compensation or benefit awarded to the seafarer or other worker or heirs  
7 thereof shall be null and void. This fee shall not be payable before the actual  
8 payment of the compensation or benefit awarded to the seafarer or other worker, or  
9 heirs thereof, except reasonable initial expenses in relation to handling the case.

10  
11 For purposes of this Act, fees referred to in this section shall mean the total  
12 amount of compensation of the person who appears for or represents the seafarer or  
13 other workers similarly situated, or heirs thereof for services rendered.

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

21  
22 **SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)  
23 days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Labor and Employment in  
24 coordination with the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina), Philippine Overseas  
25 Employment Administration (POEA), and appropriate labor organizations shall  
26 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of  
27 the provisions of this Act.

28  
29 **SECTION 6. Repealing Clause.** All laws, orders, issuances, decrees, rules  
30 and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
31 modified accordingly.

32  
33 Approved,