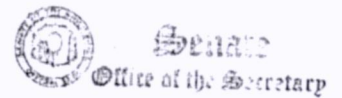


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



'18 SEP -5 P4 57

SENATE
S. B. No. 1982

RECEIVED

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be a stylized 'J' or similar character, written over a horizontal line.

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF SELECTING
AN ACTING PRESIDENT, AS REQUIRED UNDER
ARTICLE VII, SECTION 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article VII, Section 7 of the Constitution provides that where no President and Vice-President shall have been chosen or shall have qualified, or where both shall have died or become permanently disabled, the President of the Senate shall act as President until a President or a Vice- President shall have been chosen and qualified. If the President of the Senate is unable to act as President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall do so. Congress is mandated to provide for the manner in which one who is to act as President shall be selected in the event that both the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives are unable to act as President until a President or a Vice-President shall have qualified.

For 31 years, Congress has not acted on this mandate.

It is in line with the foregoing mandate that this bill is filed. Apart from the fact that Congress is obligated to provide for this contingency,

it is important to prepare for all possible scenarios that may arise relating to vacancies in the leadership of our government.


For these reasons, passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

'18 SEP -5 P4 59

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF SELECTING
AN ACTING PRESIDENT, AS REQUIRED UNDER
ARTICLE VII, SECTION 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State, in accordance
2 with the *Constitution*, to provide the manner of selecting who shall act as
3 President until a President or Vice-President shall have qualified, in case
4 of death, permanent disability, or inability of the President of the Senate
5 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to act as President.

6
7 **SEC. 2. *Manner of Selection.*** - In the event that the President of
8 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives are both
9 unable to act as President as provided in *Article VII, Section 7,*
10 *paragraph 6* of the *Constitution*, then the government official who is
11 highest on the following list, whose nomination or appointment has been
12 confirmed or approved by the Commission on Appointments, and who is
13 not under any disability to discharge the powers and duties of the office
14 of President shall act as President until a President or Vice-President
15 shall have been qualified:

1 (1) The Secretary of Foreign Affairs;

2
3 (2) The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;

4
5 (3) The Secretary of the National Defense.

6
7 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or
8 issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, or rule or regulation
9 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed modified
10 accordingly.

11
12 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
13 after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2)
14 newspapers of general circulation.

15
Approved,