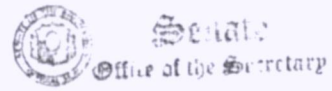


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



SENATE S.B. No 972

'19 AUG 27 P5:24

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

RECEIVED BY

**AN ACT  
TO ENCOURAGE GOOD SAMARITANS WHO PROVIDE REASONABLE  
ASSISTANCE IN AN EMERGENCY BY PROTECTING THEM FROM LIABILITY**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In line with the policies of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them, and to encourage the involvement of the people in public, social and civic affairs that promote the welfare of the nation, the natural filipino trait of *malasakit* must be promoted through proper legislation that encourage volunteerism.

A good samaritan is defined as a person who voluntarily gives help to those in distress or need. It also means a compassionate person who unselfishly helps others, especially strangers, in reference to the parable of the good samaritan in the Bible who aided a man who had been beaten and robbed in Luke 10:30-37.


In this bill, good samaritans are individuals performing volunteer services who do not receive compensation to reasonably assist persons in an emergency. Timely and effective assistance in an emergency is a matter of vital concern affecting public health, safety, and welfare. This complements Republic Act No. 10871 or the Basic Life Support Training in Schools Act and encourages putting such training to good use. Good samaritans will be protected from liability in providing reasonable assistance in an emergency as long as the good samaritan was acting in an emergency; if appropriate or required, the good samaritan was properly licensed, certified, or authorized by the appropriate authorities for the activities undertaken in an emergency; and the harm was not caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or a conscious, flagrant, indifference to the rights or safety of another.

**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator

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

1       **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Good Samaritan  
2 Act of 2019.”

3       **Sec. 2. Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to encourage good samaritans  
4 who provide reasonable assistance in an emergency by protecting them from liability.

5       **Sec. 3. Definitions.** – For purposes of this Act,

6       (1) “Good Samaritan” shall refer to an individual performing volunteer services who  
7 does not receive compensation to reasonably assist a person in an emergency.

8       (2) “Emergency” shall refer to a situation requiring immediate attention and  
9 remedial action involving a sudden, unexpected, and impending threat to life,  
10 health, or safety of a person.

11       **Sec. 4. Liability Protection for Good Samaritans.** – No good samaritan  
12 shall be liable for harm caused by an act or omission if:

13       (1) the good samaritan was acting in an emergency at the time of the act or  
14 omission;

15       (2) if appropriate or required, the good samaritan was properly licensed, certified,  
16 or authorized by the appropriate authorities for the activities undertaken in an  
17 emergency at the time of the act or omission; and

1 (3) the harm was not caused by willful or criminal misconduct, gross negligence,  
2 reckless misconduct, or a conscious, flagrant indifference to the rights or safety  
3 of the individual harmed by the good samaritan.

4 **Sec. 5. Exceptions.** – The liability protection for good samaritans under this  
5 Act shall not apply to misconduct that:

6 (1) constitutes a crime; or

7 (2) was performed under the influence of intoxicating alcohol or any dangerous  
8 drug at the time of the misconduct

9 **Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations,  
10 or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
11 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

12 **Sec. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is  
13 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected  
14 thereby shall remain in force and effect.

15 **Sec. 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
16 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of  
17 general circulation in the Philippines.

18 Approved,