



SENATE  
Senate Bill No. 982

'19 AUG 28 P 3 :10

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Introduced by **SENATOR LACSON**

**AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE ORDER OF PRESIDENTIAL  
SUCCESSION**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to Article VII Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, "Executive Power shall be vested in the President of the Philippines." The position of the President is of paramount importance as it functions as the head of the executive branch of government responsible for the faithful execution of laws. Further, the President is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

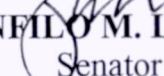
To ensure continuity and stability of operations in government, the framers of our Constitution provided a line of succession in the event that the President is unable to discharge the duties of his office due to death, disability or resignation in this wise -

"Section 8. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of both the President and Vice-President, the President of the Senate or, in case of his inability, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall then act as President until the President or Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified. xxx" (Article 7 Section 8, 1987 Constitution)

The same constitutional provision mandates the legislature to enact a law identifying who shall serve as President in case of death, permanent disability, or resignation of the Acting President until the election and qualification of a new President or Vice-President.

This bill adheres to the abovementioned mandate and seeks to provide an exhaustive line / order of presidential succession in the event of death, permanent disability, removal from office or resignation of the Acting President to ensure that the office of the President is never vacated even in exceptional circumstances.

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

  
**PANFILO M. LACSON**  
Senator

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SUCCESSION**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or  
2 resignation of both the President and Vice-President, the President of the Senate or,  
3 in case of his inability, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall serve as  
4 the Acting President until the President or Vice-President shall have been elected  
5 and qualified.

6  
7           **SECTION 2.** In the event of permanent disability, death, removal from  
8 office or resignation of the Acting President before the President or Vice-President  
9 shall have been elected and qualified, the following elected and appointed officers  
10 of the Republic of the Philippines and who is not under any disability to discharge  
11 the powers and duties of the Office of the President shall act as President in the  
12 following order:

13           (1) the most senior Senator based on the length of service in the Senate or if  
14 there be none, or in the event of his removal, death, resignation or of his  
15 inability to act as President,

16           (2) the most senior Representative based on the length of service in the House  
17 of Representatives or if there be none, or in the event of his removal, death,  
18 resignation or of his inability to act as President,

19           (3) the member of the Cabinet designated by the President.

20           Prior to any public or private activity, event or function with the attendance  
21 of the President, Vice President and other high ranking officials which may include  
22 those mentioned in Sections 1 and 2 of this Act, the President shall designate a  
23 member of the Cabinet to be sequestered in a secret and secure location. In the event  
24 of an extraordinary circumstance resulting in the death or permanent disability of

1 the President, Vice President and the officials mentioned in Sections 1 and 2 of this  
2 Act, the designated member of the cabinet shall act as President.

3           **SECTION 3.** Official actions of the Acting President pertaining to the day-  
4 to-day operation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall remain  
5 effective unless revoked by the elected President within ninety days from his or her  
6 assumption or reassumption of office.

7           **SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

8           **Approved,**