



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 1773

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BY REPRESENTATIVES SOON-RUIZ, GARIN, BONDOC, FIRMALO, CARMONA,  
UY (R.), CODILLA, MAGSAYSAY (E.) AND ANGARA

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AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF GOVERNMENT AMBULANCES,  
PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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

1           SECTION 1. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following  
2 terms shall mean:

3           (a) “Government ambulance” refers to a vehicle equipped with  
4 emergency life-saving devices and equipment and properly designated as such,  
5 used to carry or transport seriously sick or injured persons or patients in  
6 emergency situations requiring immediate medical treatment to a medical  
7 facility or from one medical facility to another; or for diagnostic or therapeutic  
8 treatment where, by the nature of the patient’s sickness or injury, conveyance

1 by ambulance is necessary. These are acquired using government funds or  
2 donated for government use, regardless of source.

3 (b) "Emergency" refers to a condition or state of patient wherein based  
4 on the objective findings of a prudent medical officer on duty for the day, there  
5 is immediate danger on the life of the patient where delay in initial support and  
6 treatment may cause loss of life or permanent disability to the patient.

7 SEC. 2. *Joint Custody of Government Ambulances Assigned or*  
8 *Donated to Local Government Units (LGUs).* – Any government ambulance  
9 assigned or donated to LGUs shall be under the joint custody of the local chief  
10 executive and the health officer concerned. Each shall be jointly liable for any  
11 violation of the provisions of this Act committed by the other.

12 Upon the end of the local chief executive's term of office or in case he  
13 is disqualified or removed from office for whatever cause, he shall turn over  
14 the custody of the ambulance to the proper authority within fifteen (15) days  
15 from his last day in office. In the same manner, in case the health officer of the  
16 LGU retires, is separated or disqualified from office, he shall turn over the said  
17 custody to the proper authority within fifteen (15) days from his last day in  
18 office.

19 SEC. 3. *Duties of Local Chief Executives.* – (a) It shall be the duty of  
20 any local chief executive having temporary custody of any government

1 ambulance, donated or otherwise, to deliver or cause the delivery of the same  
2 to the intended beneficiary without unnecessary delay.

3 (b) It shall also be the duty of local chief executives assigned with any  
4 government ambulance to appoint at least one regular driver for each  
5 ambulance and ensure that a sufficient amount for gasoline and the  
6 maintenance of their ambulance is appropriated every year.

7 SEC. 4. *Prohibited Acts.* – The following acts are hereby prohibited:

8 (a) It shall be unlawful for any public official or employee to use any  
9 government ambulance as office service vehicle, for recreation or for personal  
10 use or for any other purpose whatsoever inconsistent with the purposes of a  
11 government ambulance as defined in Section 1 of this Act;

12 (b) It shall be unlawful for any public official or employee to use any  
13 government ambulance in the transportation of patients not in emergency  
14 situation unless another ambulance is available to respond to any emergency;  
15 or when no other means of transportation is available which nonavailability is  
16 jointly certified under oath by the patient or any of his/her relatives or  
17 guardians and the responsible officer in charge of the ambulance other than the  
18 driver; or when the nature of the patient's sickness or injury, though not life  
19 threatening, makes necessary his/her transportation by ambulance;

1 (c) It shall be unlawful for any public officer or employee to allow the  
2 use of any government ambulance by individuals or entities for private use, for  
3 a fee or not;

4 (d) It shall be unlawful for any public officer or employee to refuse the  
5 use of any government ambulance by any patient entitled to the use of the same  
6 as provided in this Act due to the patient's inability to pay any fee collected for  
7 its use; or discriminate in its use on account of religious beliefs, gender,  
8 economic status, political affiliations or whatever cause contrary to law, public  
9 policy or good customs;

10 (e) It shall be unlawful for any public officer or employee to paint over  
11 or allow the painting over of any government ambulance to circumvent the  
12 provisions of this Act; and

13 (f) It shall be unlawful to use deceptive measures such as sirens,  
14 printing the word "ambulance" on the vehicle's body, etc., of any privately-  
15 owned or government-owned vehicle to make it appear as an ambulance.

16 SEC. 5. *Exceptions to the Prohibited Acts.* – The provisions of Section  
17 4 notwithstanding, the following use of any government ambulance in non-  
18 emergency cases may be allowed:

19 (a) Medical outreach missions; and

20 (b) Other related hospital operations.

1           SEC. 6. *Penalty Clause.* – Violations of Section 2, paragraph 2 hereof  
2 shall be punished by perpetual disqualification from public service with  
3 forfeiture of retirement benefits.

4           Violations of Section 3 and any of the prohibited acts enumerated in  
5 Section 4 hereof shall be penalized by suspension from office without pay for  
6 thirty (30) days for the first offense; six months without pay for the second  
7 offense; and termination from service with forfeiture of retirement benefits and  
8 perpetual disqualification from public service for the third offense.

9           If any violation of any of the prohibited acts be committed with the  
10 knowledge or participation of the local chief executive and/or the responsible  
11 health officer in case of LGUs, or the head of hospitals in case of government  
12 hospitals, the said officials shall also be penalized with the same penalty  
13 provided in this Act for the infraction.

14           SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the  
15 Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the secretaries of Health  
16 and Transportation and Communications and concerned sectors shall issue  
17 such guidelines, orders or rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry  
18 out the provisions of this Act.

19           SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act or the  
20 application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared

1 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision  
2 to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

3       SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, decrees, proclamations,  
4 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this  
5 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6       SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen  
7 (15) days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or  
8 in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

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