

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

8 JAN 14 2010

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. NO. 1999

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The admittance of some witnesses in deplorable and high profile crimes into the Witness Protection Program as enunciated under Republic Act No. 6981 gave rise to some problems in implementation arising from circumstances not provided for by law.

The bill proposes to amend RA 6981 by entitling witnesses admitted into the program to the following benefits: 1) hospitalization benefits while in the safehouse; 2) free public education to minor or dependent children. Presently, free hospitalization is provided to witnesses only for injuries or illnesses incurred or suffered primarily due to witness duty. Also, minors or dependent children of witnesses cannot avail themselves of free education provision in the law because such can only be availed of in case of death or permanent incapacity of the witness. The bill limits the grant of free education to minors or dependents to the public educational system primarily because of limited funds of the State.

Moreover, the bill seeks to provide clearly and explicitly for the perpetuation of testimonies of witnesses in consonance with Rule 134 of the Revised Rules of Court. Although this can readily be done administratively, this measure would like to provide such in the law.

Passage of this measure is earnestly requested.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES
Senator

1 any [public] school, State college or university, as long as they have been qualified
2 thereto."

3

4 **SEC. 2.** A new section shall be inserted between Section 12 and Section 13 of the
5 same Act, which shall read as follows:

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7 "SEC. 2-A. *PERPETUATION OF TESTIMONY*.- A WITNESSSS ONCE
8 ADMITTED INTO THE PROGRAM MAY PERPETUATE HIS TESTIMOY
9 PURSUANT TO RULE 134 OF THE REVISED RULES OF COURT."

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11 **SEC. 3.** The Department of Justice shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulation to
12 implement this Act.

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14 **SEC. 4.** If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional
15 or invalid, such shall not invalidate any other section of this Act.

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17 **SEC. 5.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations, ordinances, or parts thereof
18 which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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20 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in at least
21 two (2) general newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,