



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVES DEL MAR, ALMARIO, CHIPECO, CODILLA, SOLIS,
VARGAS, CHATTO, AMIN, ROQUERO, JALOSJOS-CARREON, TULAGAN,
PUNO, YAPHA, MARAÑON, CARMONA, RAMIRO, MAGTUBO, VELOSO,
ESPINOSA (E.R.), MAGSAYSAY (M.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 753

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DETENTION OF PATIENTS IN
HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS ON GROUNDS OF
NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES

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

1 SECTION 1. It shall be unlawful for any hospital or medical clinic in
2 the country to detain or to otherwise cause, directly or indirectly, the detention
3 of patients who have fully or partially recovered or have been adequately
4 attended to or who may have died, for reasons of nonpayment in part or in full,
5 of hospital bills or medical expenses.

6 SEC. 2. Patients who have fully or partially recovered and who already
7 wish to leave the hospital or medical clinic but are financially incapable to
8 settle, in part or in full, their hospitalization expenses, including professional

1 fees and medicines, shall be allowed to leave the hospital or medical clinic,
2 with a right to demand the issuance of the corresponding medical certificate
3 and other pertinent papers required for the release of the patient from the
4 hospital or medical clinic upon the execution of a promissory note covering the
5 unpaid obligation. The promissory note shall be secured by either a mortgage
6 or by a guarantee of a co-maker, who will be jointly and severally liable with
7 the patient for the unpaid obligation. In the case of a deceased patient, the
8 corresponding death certificate and other documents required for interment and
9 other purposes shall be released to any of his surviving relatives requesting for
10 the same: *Provided, however,* That patients who stayed in private rooms shall
11 not be covered by this Act.

12 SEC. 3. Any officer or employee of the hospital or medical clinic
13 responsible for releasing patients, who violates the provisions of this Act shall
14 be punished by a fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00), but
15 not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or imprisonment of not less
16 than one month, but not more than six months, or both such fine and
17 imprisonment, at the discretion of the proper court.

18 SEC. 4. The Department of Health shall promulgate the necessary rules
19 and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

1 SEC. 5. If any provision of this Act is declared void and
2 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions hereof not affected thereby shall
3 remain in full force and effect.

4 SEC. 6. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof
5 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

6 SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
7 in two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,