

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

1802

House Bill No. _____



Introduced by the **Honorable ROILO GOLEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The bill proposes to amend Republic Act No. 6981 establishing the Witness Protection Program by entitling: 1) witnesses admitted into the program hospitalization benefits while in the safehouse; 2) minor or dependent children free public education, from primary to college. Presently, free hospitalization is provided only for injuries or illnesses incurred or suffered by him because of witness duty. Also, minors or dependent children of witnesses cannot avail such free education provision in the law because of the condition that the same can only be availed of in case of death or permanent incapacity. In making free education to minors or dependents available, we limit such grant in the public educational system due primarily to the very limited funds the State has to afford assuming expenditures from private schools.

The bill also seeks to provide for the perpetuation of testimonies of witnesses in consonance with Rule 134 of the Revised Rules of Court. Some experts though say that this can readily be done administratively. We would like to clearly and explicitly provide for such in law.

Passage of this measure is earnestly requested.

ROILO GOLEZ

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

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

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

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laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,