

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4864



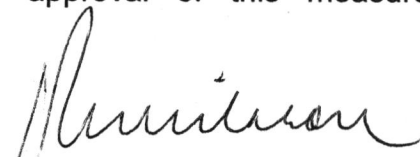
Introduced by HON. MA. AMELITA CALIMBAS-VILLAROSA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The laudable purpose of Batas Pambansa Blg. 702, as amended by Republic Act No. 8344, prohibiting hospitals or medical clinics from requiring deposit or advance payment before administration of medical treatment in emergency cases needs to be complemented with a similar prohibition on the practice of refusing the discharge of indigent patients by mere reason of inability to pay the corresponding hospital bills incurred for having received such emergency medical treatment and support. The former should be supported by the latter if the intention is to afford complete relief to our less fortunate brethren.

There are many ways to settle unpaid hospital bills without requiring continued confinement of a fully recuperated patient who, instead of being able to resume his occupation and thereby earn enough to pay his obligation, faces mounting bills as days go by. For instance, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation may be tapped to establish some sort of a health fund that can grant emergency loans to indigent patients for whom the Department of Social Welfare and Development or the local government units can offer acceptable guaranty. The SSS and the GSIS may likewise be called to render assistance by extending similar emergency loans if the patient is a member in good standing.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly recommended.


MA. AMELITA CALIMBAS-VILLAROSA

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HOUSE BILL NO. 4864

Introduced by HON. MA. AMELITA CALIMBAS-VILLAROSA

**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRACTICE OF WITHHOLDING THE DISCHARGE
OF INDIGENT PATIENTS WHO FAIL TO PAY HOSPITAL OR MEDICAL
BILLS INCURRED DUE TO EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND SUPPORT,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, SECTION 3 OF BATAS PAMBANSA
BLG. 702, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8344**

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 702, as amended by
Republic Act No. 8344, is hereby amended to read as follows:

*Section 3. After the hospital or medical clinic mentioned above
shall have administered medical treatment and support, it may
cause the transfer of the patient to an appropriate hospital
consistent with the needs of the patient, preferably to a government
hospital, specially in the case of poor or indigent patients.*

**Under no circumstance shall poor or indigent patients
be kept on continued confinement and refused discharge by
reason of inability to pay hospital or medical bills incurred for
emergency treatment and support.**

SECTION 2. Section 5 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 702, as amended by
Republic Act No. 8344, is hereby amended to read as follows:

*Section 5. The Department of Health **in collaboration with the
Department of Social Welfare and Development** shall
promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the
provisions of this Act.*

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Approved,