

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 407

Introduced by HONORABLE JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 15, Section 1 provides:

"The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development."

The child, as a part of the family, is one of the most important assets of the nation. Consequently, the State should exert every effort to promote the child's welfare and enhance his opportunities for a useful and happy life.

A child, separated from his family, loses the opportunity to develop in a wholesome and harmonious atmosphere conducive to his proper upbringing, particularly with respect to his preparation for adult life and the conscientious discharge of his civic duties.

Accordingly, this bill seeks to require hospitals: a) to establish and implement security procedures to reduce the likelihood of infant patient abduction and baby switching; and b) to devise procedures for identifying all infant patients in the hospital in a manner that ensures it will be evident if infants are missing from the hospital.

For all the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

H. B. No. 407

Introduced by Honorable JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

AN ACT
TO REQUIRE HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT SECURITY
PROCEDURES TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF INFANT PATIENT ABDUCTION
AND BABY SWITCHING, INCLUDING PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING ALL
INFANT PATIENTS IN THE HOSPITAL IN A MANNER THAT ENSURES IT WILL BE
EVIDENT IF INFANTS ARE MISSING FROM THE HOSPITAL

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the *"Infant Protection and Baby Switching Prevention Act."*

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to protect the Filipino family, strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development.

SEC 3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the term:

- 1) "Identification Record" means a record maintained by hospital to aid in the identification of newborn patients of the hospital, including any of the following:
 - i. The footprint, fingerprint or photograph of the newborn patient;
 - ii. A written description of the infant; and
 - iii. An identification bracelet or anklet put on the newborn patient, or the mother of the newborn patient by a staff member of the hospital.
- 2) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health.

SEC 4. *Establishment of Security Procedures.* In the case of hospital and critical access hospitals which provide neonatal or infant care, to have in effect security procedures that meet standards established by the Secretary in consultation with appropriate organizations) to reduce the likelihood of infant patient abduction and baby switching, including standards for identifying all infant patients in the hospital in a manner that ensures that it will be evident if infants are missing from the hospital.