

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2055

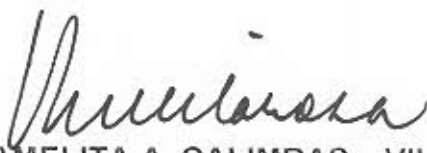
Introduced by **HON. MA. AMELITA A. CALIMBAS – VILLAROSA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The laudable purpose of Batasan 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 similar prohibition on the practice of refusing the discharge of indigent patients by mere reason of inability practice to pay the corresponding hospitals 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 bills without requiring continued confinement of 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 Philippines Health Insurance Corporation may be tapped to establish some sort of a health fund that can grant emergency loans to indigent patients for whom Department of Social Welfare and Development of the local government units can offer acceptable guaranty. The SSS and 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 A. CALIMBAS – VILLAROSA

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Introduced by **HON. MA. AMELITA A. 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 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, preferably to a government hospital, especially 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 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 upon its approval.

Approved.