

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4900**



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

No individual, funeral parlor or crematorium should be able to carry out the disposition of a human corpse without the express concurrence or approval of the dead person's next of kin. The summary cremation of a deceased person, for instance, presupposes concealment of a wrongdoing or obstruction of justice. By the same token, dropping a corpse that is suitably prepared and weighted overboard from a ship or plane into the ocean is deposited there to hide a piece of evidence. Hence, unauthorized disposition of human corpses should be severely dealt with to the fullest extent of the law.

For forensic purposes, deceased persons should be preserved in accordance with standard sanitation practices until the next of kin has expressly acquiesced to their final disposition. The swift resolution of criminal cases will be accomplished with the proper and lawful handling of deceased persons.

The swift passage of this bill is thus earnestly sought.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Winnie Castelo". The signature is written over the printed name "WINNIE CASTELO" and extends upwards and to the left, looping around the explanatory text.

WINNIE CASTELO

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AN ACT
INTERDICTING UNAUTHORIZED DISPOSITION OF HUMAN CORPSES BY INDIVIDUALS,
CREMATORIUMS OR FUNERAL PARLORS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Unauthorized Human Corpse Disposal Act."

SEC. 2. The unauthorized disposal of human corpses by any individuals, crematoriums or funeral parlors is hereby declared prohibited or interdicted. Disposal of a human corpse without express concurrence or approval of the dead person's next of kin is deemed unauthorized and unlawful.

Provided, however, that for forensic purposes, the cadaver be preserved and handled in accordance with standard sanitation practices.

SEC. 3. Subject to existing sanitation code, the corpse shall remain in the custody of the funeral parlor within a reasonable period within which to secure the consent of the dead person's next of kin. In the event that the period for concurrence has lapsed, then the funeral parlor shall carry out the final disposition in accordance with existing laws.

SEC. 4. Anyone found guilty of violating the provisions of this Act shall pay a fine of not less than P200,000 and/or imprisonment ranging from 6 months to 1 year.

SEC. 5. The Department of Health, in consultation with the Philippine National Police, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed accordingly.

SEC 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,