



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4421



Introduced by Congressman Jorge “PATROL” Bustos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The President of our Republic functions as the Head of State and the head of the government. As enunciated under Article VII Section I of the 1987 Constitution, “Executive Power shall be vested in the President of the Philippines.” As such, the President leads the Executive Department, which ensures the faithful execution of laws, and ensures compliance with the same. He is also the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

It is therefore imperative that the state ensures the continuity and stability of the operations in government no matter the circumstances, as it is also constitutionally provided who shall succeed the President in the event that he is unable to discharge the duties of his office, for the following reasons: death, disability, removal, or resignation from office.

As provided in Article 7 Section 8, of the 1987 Constitution, “*in case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of both the President and Vice-President, the President of the Senate or, in case of his inability, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall then act as President until the President or Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified.*”

As culled from the above, the legislature is tasked to enact a law to enumerate those who will succeed him in such cases when he may no longer discharge the functions of his office, whether voluntarily or not, until such a time that his duly election successor has been elected and has qualified to be the new President, or Vice-President, as the case may be.

This bill proposes the natural order of presidential succession as may be based from the sound evaluation of functions from each branch of the government, which exhaustively determines how important it is to have an Acting President no matter the circumstance, and to make sure that there will be smooth transition from an *ad interim* one to a duly elected, qualified, and legitimate President. The need to have this bill immediately enacted cannot be overemphasized in this unprecedented time of volatility and uncertainty.

The enactment of this bill is immediately sought.



CONG. JORGE “PATROL” BUSTOS



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AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THE ORDER OF PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

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

SECTION 1. In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of both the President and Vice-President, the President of the Senate or, in case of his inability, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall serve as the Acting President until the President or Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified.

SECTION 2. In the event of pennant disability, death, removal from office or resignation of the Acting President before the President or Vice-President shall have been elected and qualified, the following elected and appointed officers of the Republic of the Philippines and who is not under any disability to discharge the powers and duties of the Office of the President shall act as President in the following order:

(1) the most senior Senator based on the length of service in the Senate or if there be none, or in the event of his removal, death, resignation or of his inability to act as President,

1 (2) the most senior Representative based on the length of
2 service in the House of Representatives or if there be none, or in
3 the event of his removal, death, resignation or of his inability to act
4 as President,

5 (3) the member of the Cabinet designated by the President.

6 Prior to any public or private activity, event or function with the attendance
7 of the President, Vice President and other high ranking officials which may
8 include those mentioned in Sections 1 and 2 of this Act, the President shall
9 designate a member of the Cabinet to be sequestered in a secret and secure
10 location. In the event of an extraordinary circumstance resulting in the death or
11 permanent disability of the President, Vice President and the officials mentioned
12 in Sections 1 and 2 of this Act, the designated member of the cabinet shall act as
13 President.

14 SECTION 3. Official actions of the Acting President pertaining to the day-
15 to-day operation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall
16 remain effective unless revoked by the elected President within ninety days from
17 his or her assumption or reassumption of office.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19 Approved

