



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8627

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEMA, PAPANDAYAN, LAZATIN, CATAMCO, SY-ALVARADO, ACOSTA, SALCEDA, DIMAPORO (A.), MANGUDADATU (S.), PIMENTEL, YAP (M.), PALMA, LIMKAICHONG, SIAO, MATUGAS, PANGANIBAN, FORTUN, PANOTES, NUÑEZ-MALANYAON, TUPAS, ROA-PUNO, ACOSTA-ALBA, SARMIENTO (E.M.), BULUT-BEGTANG, LOBREGAT, DIMAPORO (M.K.), VELOSO, NIETO, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, YU, UY (R.), BLAZON, ROQUE, BILLONES, CRISOLOGO, DE VENECIA, NAVA AND MANGUDADATU (Z.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 937

AN ACT REQUIRING HOSPITALS, MEDICAL CLINICS, AND OTHER FACILITIES TO RELEASE A CADAVER IN THEIR POSSESSION WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS FROM THE TIME OF DEATH TO THE FAMILY OR RELATIVES IN RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9439, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DETENTION OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS ON GROUNDS OF NONPAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES"

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9439 is hereby
2 amended to read as follows:

1 "SEC. 2. Patients who have fully or partially
2 recovered and who already wish to leave the hospital
3 or medical clinic but are financially incapable to settle,
4 in part or in full, their hospitalization expenses,
5 including professional fees and medicines, shall be
6 allowed to leave the hospital or medical clinic, with a
7 right to demand the issuance of the corresponding
8 medical certificate and other pertinent papers required
9 for the release of the patient from the hospital or
10 medical clinic upon the execution of a promissory note
11 covering the unpaid obligation. The promissory note
12 shall be secured by either a mortgage or by a
13 guarantee of a co-maker, who will be jointly and
14 severally liable with the patient for the unpaid
15 obligation. [In the case of a deceased patient,] THE
16 CADAVER OF A DECEASED PATIENT SHALL BE
17 RELEASED WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS FROM
18 THE TIME OF DEATH TO THE FAMILY OR RELATIVES IN
19 RECOGNITION OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND
20 TRADITIONS AS MUSLIMS, CHRISTIANS OR INDIGENOUS
21 PEOPLES AND the corresponding death certificate and
22 other documents required for interment and other
23 purposes shall be released to any of [his] THE
24 surviving relatives requesting for the same: *Provided,*
25 *however,* That patients who stayed in private rooms
26 shall not be covered by this Act."
27 SEC. 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9439 is hereby amended,
28 and all other laws, executive orders, and rules and regulations

1 which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed
2 or modified accordingly.

3 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
4 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general
5 circulation.

Approved,

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