



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8627

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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.), BIAZON, ROQUE, BILLONES, CRISOLOGO, DE VENECIA, NAVA, MANGUDADATU (Z.) AND SANGCOPAN, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 937

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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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