



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 48

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BY REPRESENTATIVES MACIAS, YAPHA, CARMONA, CARLOS, AGARAO,  
MAGSAYSAY (M.), FABIAN, AGBAYANI, FIGUEROA, VIOLAGO, AQUINO  
(R.), PINGOY, ANGARA, BIRON, GARIN, FIRMALO, SEACHON-LANETE,  
CODILIA, AMIN, ROQUERO, UY (R.) AND MAGSAYSAY (E.)

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FAIR AND EQUITABLE TERMS FOR THE  
RELEASE OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' PROFESSIONAL FEE  
WITHHELD BY HOSPITALS OR MEDICAL CLINICS FOR  
FAILURE OF THE PATIENT TO PAY HOSPITAL BILLS AND  
PENALIZING VIOLATIONS THEREFOR

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Medical  
2 Practitioners Protection Act of 2006”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the  
4 State to protect and promote the right to health and enhance the right of all the  
5 people to human dignity. Toward this end, this Act aims to protect the  
6 economic well-being of medical practitioners to ensure a more responsive and  
7 efficient delivery of health services to all the people.

1 (b) When partial payment is made by the patient, the professional fee to  
2 be released shall be proportionate to the total cost of hospitalization; and the  
3 withholding tax deducted by the hospital from the professional fee shall be  
4 proportionate to the partial payment made.

5 Whenever payment is made by the patient, the professional fee shall be  
6 immediately deposited into the bank account of the medical practitioner.

7 *SEC. 5. Statement of Account.* – The hospital or medical clinic shall  
8 provide the medical practitioner a monthly update or statement of account  
9 containing the total amount of professional fee charged, the amount already  
10 paid and the balance receivable.

11 *SEC. 6. Prohibited Act.* – It shall be unlawful for any hospital or  
12 medical clinic to withhold, except for taxation purposes, the professional fee of  
13 medical practitioners due to the patients' failure to pay their hospital bills.

14 *SEC. 7. Penalty.* – Any clinic or hospital officer, staff or employee  
15 found guilty of violating any provision of this Act shall suffer the penalty of  
16 *prision correccional* or pay a fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos  
17 (P20,000.00) but not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both, at  
18 the discretion of the court.

19 *SEC. 8. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,