



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7886

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BY REPRESENTATIVES VARGAS, LOPEZ, OLIVAREZ, ABU, SAVELLANO, RIVERA, VILLANUEVA (E.),  
FORTUN, ALMARIO, PADUANO, QUIMBO AND DELOSO-MONTALLA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT  
No. 564

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**"AN ACT  
IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THE OFFENSES OF STEALING OR  
VANDALIZING OF GOVERNMENT ROAD AND TRAFFIC SIGNS, WARNING  
DEVICES, ACCESSORIES AND OTHER FACILITIES"**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1. Short Title** - This Act shall be known as the "Stealing or Vandalizing of  
2 Government Road and Traffic Signs and Devices Act".
- 3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy** - It is the policy of the State to protect the safety of  
4 people and their property, in this regard, the State shall endeavor to continually  
5 improve the condition of roads and make vehicular traffic as safe as possible by  
6 providing motorists with appropriate information through signs and accident-  
7 prevention devices. In pursuit of this end, the State shall mandate concerned  
8 government agencies and instrumentalities to install, in conspicuous and appropriate  
9 places, road and traffic signs and devices, to warn motorists of risks and dangers on  
10 the road.
- 11 **SEC. 3. Theft and Damage of Government Traffic and Road Signs and Devices** -  
12 It shall be unlawful to steal or vandalize government road and traffic signs, warning  
13 devices, accessories, and other facilities, installed by national and local governments  
14 for the purpose of cautioning motorists of imminent dangers along the road.
- 15 **SEC. 4. Government Road and Traffic Signs Warning Devices and Accessories** -  
16 As used in this Act, the term "road and traffic signs, warning devices and  
17 accessories, and other facilities" shall mean road or traffic signs exemplified by the

1 signs "Stop", "Yield", "Slippery When Wet". Signs indicating zigzagging sections of  
2 roads, railings, and similar devices shall serve to provide road information, notices and  
3 warnings to motorists and the public to facilitate vehicular traffic and avoid the  
4 occurrence of accidents, loss of life and damage to property. A man-hole cover shall  
5 be considered a road accident-prevention accessory.

6 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall provide a list of  
7 all lawful road and traffic signs, warning devices and accessories, and other facilities  
8 owned by the government. The list shall be updated as the need arises.

9 **SEC. 5. Prohibited Acts** – It shall be unlawful for any person to commit any of the  
10 following acts:

- 11 1. Steal government road and traffic signs, warning devices, accessories,  
12 and other facilities or any parts thereof, installed by national and local  
13 governments, listed and duly provided by the DPWH under Section 4 of  
14 this Act;
- 15 2. Vandalize, damage, destroy, dismantle, or disassembled government road  
16 and traffic signs, warning devices, accessories, and other facilities or any  
17 part thereof, installed by national and local governments, listed and duly  
18 provided by the DPWH under Section 4 of this Act;
- 19 3. Sell or buy stolen road and traffic signs, warning devices, accessories, and  
20 other facilities or any part thereof, listed and duly provided by the DPWH  
21 under Section 4 of this Act;
- 22 4. Attempt to commit any of the aforementioned prohibited acts; and
- 23 5. Benefit from the proceeds or fruits of any of the abovementioned prohibited  
24 acts knowing that the same are derived from the commission of a prohibited  
25 act.

26 **SEC. 6. Penalties** - The violation of this Act shall be punished with the following  
27 penalties:

- 28 a. The penalty of imprisonment of not less than twelve (12) years but not more  
29 than fifteen (15) years or a fine twice (2x) the market value of the  
30 government property stolen in Philippine Currency, or both, at the discretion  
31 of the court, shall be imposed on any person found guilty of stealing  
32 government road and traffic signs, warning devices, accessories, and other  
33 facilities or any part thereof, including man-hole covers as defined in Section  
34 4 of this Act;
- 35 b. The same penalty provided under paragraph (a) of this Section shall be  
36 imposed on any person found guilty of selling or buying government road

1 and traffic signs, other risk reduction or warning devices, accessories, and  
2 other facilities or any part thereof as defined in Section 4 of this Act;

3 c. The penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than  
4 ten (10) years or a fine twice (2x) the market value of the government  
5 property in Philippine Currency, or both, at the discretion of the court, shall  
6 be imposed on any person found guilty of vandalizing, destroying,  
7 damaging, tampering, or disassembling government road and traffic signs,  
8 warning devices, accessories, and other facilities or any part thereof,  
9 including man-hole covers as defined in Section 4 of this Act;

10 d. The penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than  
11 eight (8) years or a fine equivalent to the market value of the government  
12 property in Philippine Currency, or both, at the discretion of the court, shall  
13 be imposed on any person who attempts to commit any of the prohibited  
14 acts provided Section 4 of this Act;

15 e. The penalty of imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more  
16 than seven (7) years or a fine twice (2x) the market value of the government  
17 property in Philippine Currency, or both, at the discretion of the court, shall  
18 be imposed on any person found guilty of unlawfully benefiting from the  
19 proceeds or fruits of any of the prohibited acts enumerated in Section 4 of  
20 this Act; and

21 f. Government employees found guilty of violation of this Act either as  
22 principal or as an accomplice shall be penalized according to the penalties  
23 prescribed in Section 6 of this Act. In addition, such government employees  
24 shall forfeit all their retirement benefits and shall be barred from further  
25 employment with the government.

26 **SEC. 7. Incentives** – Cash incentives shall be provided to a person or persons who  
27 will provide information leading to the apprehension of violators of this Act. The  
28 amount of incentives shall be provided for in the rules and regulations to be  
29 promulgated to implement this Act.

30 **SEC. 8. Non-applicability of Articles 308, 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code**  
31 - Articles 308, 309, and 310 of the Revised Penal Code shall not be applicable to  
32 cases contemplated or enumerated in this Act.

33 **SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - Within one hundred eighty (180)  
34 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DPWH shall issue the necessary rules and  
35 regulations for its implementation.

1 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause** - Any portion or provision of this Act which may be  
2 declared unconstitutional or contrary to any existing law shall not have the effect of  
3 nullifying other portions or provisions hereof.

4 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause** - All other laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other  
5 issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or  
6 modified accordingly.

7 **SEC. 12. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
8 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9 Approved