

Fifteenth Congress of the Republic)
of the Philippines)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 SEP 28 P 1:41

SENATE

S.B. No. 2542

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

News reports on escape of prisoners have casted doubt on the ability of law enforcement agencies and penal institutions to effectively undertake custody of inmates and convicts.

While a number of factors can be singled out if only to explain such despicable and unfortunate trend, most notable of which perhaps, would be corruption, exacerbated by incompetence, it is recognized that a weak penal justice system is to be blamed for the same.

As it is now, our penal laws do not provide for stricter measures to deter widespread prevalence of infidelity cases in the custody of prisoners. For this reason, corrupt and incompetent public officials have no qualms about discharging their functions well and in fact even abuse the mandate given to them.

This proposed bill aims to amend existing appropriate laws in order to provide for effective deterrence measures, particularly prescribing stricter penalties on the crime of delivering prisoners from jail and infidelity in the custody of prisoners, as provided for in pertinent provisions of the Revised Penal Code.

While this may not totally address such concern, the proposed measure will nonetheless be a critical factor in resolving this predicament.

Premises stated, speedy approval of this bill is hereby recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT
PRESCRIBING STRICTER PENALTIES ON THE CRIME OF
DELIVERING PRISONERS FROM JAIL AND INFIDELITY IN THE CUSTODY
OF PRISONERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 156, 223 AND
224 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Article 156, Chapter Five, Title 3, Book Two of Act No 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ART. 156. Delivering prisoners from jail. - The penalty of [arresto mayor] **PRISION MAYOR** in its **MEDIUM AND** maximum periods [to prision correctional in its minimum period] **OR THE PENALTY NEXT LOWER IN DEGREE THAN THAT IMPOSED ON THE PRISONER IN ITS MEDIUM AND MAXIMUM PERIODS** shall be imposed upon any person who shall remove from any jail or penal establishment any person confined therein or shall help the escape of such person, by means of violence, intimidation or bribery, **WHICHEVER IS HIGHER.** If other means are used, the penalty of [arresto] **PRISION mayor IN ITS MINIMUM AND MEDIUM PERIODS OR TWO DEGREES LOWER THAN THAT IMPOSED TO THE PRISONER IN ITS MEDIUM PERIOD** shall be imposed[.], **WHICHEVER IS HIGHER.**

If the escape of the prisoner shall take place outside of said establishments by taking the guards by surprise, the same penalties **PRESCRIBED IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING PARAGRAPH** shall be imposed in their minimum periods.

SECTION 2. Article 223, Section One, Chapter Five, Title Seven, Book Two of Act No. 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ART. 223. Conniving with or consenting to evasion. - Any public officer who shall consent to the escape of a **CONVICT OR DETENTION** prisoner in his custody or charge, **OR WHO SHALL RELEASE SUCH CONVICT OR DETENTION PRISONER AND ALLOW HIM TO RETURN TO PWSION OR DETENTION WITHOUT ANY PROPER COURT ORDER OR AUTHORIZATION** shall be punished:

1. By prison [correctional] **MAYOR** in its medium and maximum periods **OR THE PENALTY NEXT LOWER IN DEGREE THAN THAT IMPOSED ON THE PRISONER, IN ITS MEDIUM AND MAXIMUM PERIODS, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER** and [temporary special disqualification in its maximum period to perpetual special] **PERPETUAL ABSOLUTE** disqualification, if the fugitive shall have been sentenced by final judgment to any penalty.
2. By prison [correctional] **MAYOR** in its minimum period **OR THE PENALTY EQUIVALENT TO THAT PRESCRIBED TO AN ACCESSORY BASED ON THE CRIME IMPUTED UPON THE PRISONER, IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER** and [temporary special] **PERPETUAL ABSOLUTE** disqualification, in case the fugitive shall not have been finally convicted but only held as a detention prisoner for any crime or violation of law or municipal ordinance.

SECTION 3. Article 224, Section One, Chapter Five, Title Seven, Book Two of Act No. 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ART. 224. *Evasion through negligence.* - If the evasion of the **CONVICT OR DETENTION** prisoner shall have taken place through the negligence of the officer charged with the conveyance or custody of the escaping prisoner, said officer shall suffer the penalties of [arresto mayor in its maximum period to prison correctional in its minimum period] **PRISON CORRECTIONAL IN ITS MEDIUM AND MAXIMUM PERIODS OR THE PENALTY EQUIVALENT TO THAT PRESCRIBED TO AN ACCESSORY BASED ON THE CRIME IMPUTED UPON THE CONVICT OR DETENTION PRISONER IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD, WHICHEVER IS HIGHER** and temporary [special] **ABSOLUTE** disqualification.

FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE, THE PUBLIC OFFICER CHARGED WITH THE CUSTODY OR CONVEYANCE OF THE CONVICT OR DETENTION PRISONER IS PRIMA FACIE PRESUMED TO HAVE CONSENTED OR CONNIVED TO THE EVASION.

SECTION 4. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations, and part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,