

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUN 30 P4:54

SENATE

S. No. **372**

RECEIVED BY: *Cellu*

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The crime of illegal use of uniform or insignia has become rampant as a means to facilitate the commission of another crime. Oftentimes, criminals wear uniforms or use insignia pretending to be police officers in the perpetration of serious crimes like kidnapping, robbery or even murder to deceive their innocent victims.

The Revised Penal Code provides the penalty of *arresto mayor* for this crime. This means that the offender faces only a possible imprisonment of one month and one day to six months. This penalty is not commensurate to the kind of offense committed and the damage that may be incurred by the victim, especially if the perpetrator is a public official. This bill therefore seeks to amend Article 179 by increasing the imposable penalty.

Approval of this measure is highly recommended.

S. Osmeña III
SERGIO R. OSMEÑA III
Senator

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AN ACT
IMPOSING A STIFFER PENALTY FOR THE CRIME OF ILLEGAL USE OF
UNIFORMS AND INSIGNIA AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 179 OF
ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL
CODE

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

1 SECTION 1. Article 179 Act No. 3815, as amended, otherwise known as
2 the Revised Penal Code, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

3 "ARTICLE 179. Illegal use of uniforms or insignia. — The
4 penalty of [arresto mayor] PRISION CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MINIMUM
5 AND MEDIUM PERIODS shall be imposed upon any person who shall
6 publicly and improperly make use of insignia, uniforms or dress pertaining
7 to an office not held by such person or to a class of persons of which he
8 is not a member.

9 WHEN THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE INSIGNIA,
10 UNIFORM OR DRESS OR ANY COLORABLE IMITATION THEREOF
11 FACILITATED THE COMMISSION OF ANOTHER CRIME, THE
12 PENALTY SHALL BE PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MINIMUM AND MEDIUM
13 PERIODS."

14 SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or
15 parts hereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed,
16 amended or modified accordingly.

1 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
2 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation
3 whichever comes earlier.

4 Approved,