

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



'16 JUL 19 P2:10

SENATE

S. No. 510

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

**AN ACT
PRESCRIBING A HIGHER PENALTY FOR PERSONS IN AUTHORITY AS
ACCESSORIES, WHO DIRECTLY CAUSE OR ORDER THE DESTRUCTION OR
CONCEALMENT OF VITAL EVIDENCE FOR HEINOUS CRIMES, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 19 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The involvement of certain members of law enforcement agencies in criminal activities has greatly diminished our faith and confidence to these people in government. Almost every day we hear, read, or see in media the involvement of some of our law enforcers in petty crimes to alleged attempt to cover-up heinous crimes.

There seems now a need to address the growing fear and distrust among our people to some of these "villains" in uniform by treating those persons in authority, who cause or order the destruction or concealment of evidence to a crime, as accomplices to the crime.

This proposed measure seeks to amend Article 19 of the Revised Penal Code by prescribing a higher penalty for persons in authority as accessories who directly cause or order the destruction or concealment of vital evidence for heinous crimes.

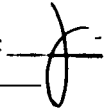
In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES
Senator

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Article 19 of the Penal Code is hereby amended by adding another
2 paragraph:

3
4 "WHERE THE OFFENSE IS A HEINOUS CRIME UNDER EXISTING
5 LAWS AND IS COMMITTED BY PERSONS IN AUTHORITY, THEY SHALL
6 SUFFER THE PENALTY ONE DEGREE HIGHER THAN THAT PRESCRIBED
7 BY LAW FOR THE CONSUMMATED FELONY."
8

9 **SEC. 2. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
11 valid and subsisting.
12

13 **SEC. 3. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
14 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent
15 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.
16

17 **SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,