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

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SENATE S.B. No. <u>1187</u>

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution summed the rationale of government's existence when it declared that "[t]he prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people."¹ The said axiom was further strengthened by the declaration that "the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all people of the blessings of democracy."²

Consistent with the said constitutional provisions, every administration has put premium in charting an effective regulation for gun possession and manufacturing.

This bill seeks to prohibit the sale, manufacture and distribution of gun replicas or replicas of similar other deadly weapons which are easily accessible to the youth and the public. The early exposure of our youth to guns poses danger to their moral formation.

Gun replicas could be easily used to intimidate persons for the furtherance of criminal plans or to carry out petty crimes. Besides the plastic pellets from these toy guns can cause the skin to break on impact and result in a wound.

We already have enough problems brought about by the proliferation of loose firearms. We do not need these replicas which will only complicate the present peace and order situation in this country.

Approval of this legislation is earnestly sought.

RAMON B. MAGS

¹ Article II, Section 4

² Article II, Section 11

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AN ACT

PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, SALE AND POSSESSION OF GUN REPLICAS AND REPLICAS OF SIMILAR DEADLY WEAPON, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. The manufacturing, distribution, selling or possession of gun replicas or similar deadly weapon. The penalty of *prision mayor* shall be imposed upon any person who shall manufacture, distribute, sell or possess gun replicas or replicas of similar deadly weapon.

If the violation of this section is in furtherance of, incident to, or in connection with the commission of any crime, the penalty in its maximum period shall be imposed.

In case of juridical persons, the penalty shall be imposed upon the owner, president, chief executive officer, manager, director or other responsible officer of the said firms or corporation or juridical entity. Should the offender be a foreigner, he shall be immediately deported after serving the sentence as provided in this Act.

For this purpose, "gun replicas and replicas of similar deadly weapons" shall be defined as exact copies of guns and other similar dangerous weapons. They may or may not fire a projectile, and every detail from color, finish, shape and weight are identical to real guns and deadly weapons except for the materials used – most are made entirely or partially of plastic but with some metal parts, especially in models that fire plastic bullets.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Department of Justice in coordination with the relevant departments and offices shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publications in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,