

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
Second Regular Session }**

Secretary  
Office of the Secretary

**SENATE**  
**S.B. No. 2210**

'21 MAY 18 P3:42

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RECEIVED BY

**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

**AN ACT  
REMOVING THE EXEMPTION FROM CRIMINAL LIABILITY IN CRIMES  
AGAINST PROPERTY UNDER SECTION 332 OF THE REVISED PENAL  
CODE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Revised Penal Code was first enacted on December 8, 1930, during the American colonization of the Philippines. Since then, our world has evolved and circumstances are very much different now.

The importance of family and its values remain to be steadfast, however, we cannot ignore the sad reality that crimes still happen amongst the closest of kin. As much as we aim to preserve the harmony and peace within the family, we cannot continue to burden further the victims of crimes by exempting their kin from their criminal liability.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

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

**SECTION 1. Section 332 of Republic Act 3815 is hereby repealed as follows:**

[Article 332. Persons exempt from criminal liability. - No criminal, but only civil liability, shall result from the commission of the crime of theft, swindling or malicious mischief committed or caused mutually by the following persons:

1. Spouses, ascendants and descendants, or relatives by affinity in the same line.
2. The widowed spouse with respect to the property which belonged to the deceased spouse before the same shall have passed into the possession of another; and
3. Brothers and sisters and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, if living together.

The exemption established by this article shall not be applicable to strangers participating in the commission of the crime.]

**SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.***- All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall hereby revised or amend accordingly.

**SECTION 3. *Reparability Clause.***- If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid such parts or provisions thereof not so declared shall remain valid and subsisting.

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

*Approved.*