

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



'22 NOV -3 P5 :47

SENATE
S. No. 1462

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THE OFFENSES OF STEALING OR
VANDALIZING OF GOVERNMENT ROAD AND TRAFFIC SIGNS, WARNING
DEVICES, ACCESSORIES AND OTHER FACILITIES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Road accidents are considered as one of the leading causes of death in the country. In Metro Manila alone, there were 121,771 recorded incidents of road crashes in 2019, resulting in damages to property, injuries and fatalities. During the same year, 154 drivers, 36 passengers and 22 pedestrians were killed.

A number of legislative interventions were put in place over the years to address the common causes of car collisions and to safeguard the citizenry against injurious effects of vehicular accidents. These are Republic Act (RA) No. 10054 or the "*Motorcycle Helmet Act*," RA 10586 or the "*Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act*," RA 10913 or the "*Anti-Distracted Driving Act*," and RA 10916 or the "*Road Speed Limiter Act*," to name a few.

This bill aims to enhance the condition of roads and make vehicular traffic as safe as possible by providing motorists with appropriate information through signs and accident-prevention devices. It seeks to make the roads safer by ensuring that road and traffic signs and warning devices are installed and properly seen and by deterring the stealing and defacing of such signs which endanger the general public.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is highly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

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DEVICES, ACCESSORIES AND OTHER FACILITIES

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Stealing or Vandalizing*
2 *of Government Road and Traffic Signs and Devices Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect the safety
4 of people and their property. In this regard, the State shall endeavour to continually
5 improve the condition of roads and make vehicular traffic as safe as possible by
6 providing motorists with appropriate information through signs and accident-
7 prevention devices. In pursuit of this end, the State shall mandate concerned
8 government agencies and instrumentalities to install, in conspicuous and appropriate
9 places, road and traffic signs and devices, to warn motorists of risks and dangers on
10 the road.

11 Sec. 3. *Theft and Damage of Government Traffic and Road Signs and Devices.*
12 – It shall be unlawful to steal or vandalize government road and traffic signs, warning
13 devices, accessories and other facilities, installed by national and local governments
14 for the purpose of cautioning motorists of imminent dangers along the road.

15 Sec. 4. *Government Road and Traffic Signs Warning Devices and Accessories.*
16 – As used in this Act, the term "road and traffic signs, warning devices and accessories,

1 and other facilities" shall mean road or traffic signs exemplified by the signs "Stop",
2 "Yield", "Slippery When Wet". Signs indicating zigzagging sections of roads, railing,
3 reflectorized markers, solar studs, and similar devices shall serve to provide road
4 information, notices and warning to motorists and the public to facilitate vehicular
5 traffic and avoid the occurrence of accidents, loss of life and damage to property. A
6 man-hole cover and temporary or permanent barricade shall be considered road
7 accident-prevention accessories.

8 The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall provide a list of
9 all lawful road and traffic signs, warning devices and accessories, and other facilities
10 owned by the government. The list, which shall include their respective production or
11 market values in Philippine Currency, shall be updated as the need arises.

12 *Sec. 5. Prohibited Acts.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to commit any of
13 the following acts:

- 14 1) Steal government road and traffic signs, warning device, accessories, and
15 other facilities or any part thereof, installed by national and local
16 governments, listed and duly provided by the DPWH under Section 4 of this
17 Act;
- 18 2) Vandalize, deface, damage, destroy, dismantle or disassemble government
19 road and traffic signs, warning devices, accessories, and other facilities or
20 any part thereof, installed by national and local governments, listed and
21 duly provided by the DPWH under Section 4 of this Act;
- 22 3) Sell, buy or possess stolen road and traffic signs, warning devices,
23 accessories and other facilities or any part thereof, listed and duly provided
24 by the DPWH under Section 4 of this Act;
- 25 4) Attempt to commit any of the aforementioned prohibited acts; and
- 26 5) Benefit from the proceeds or fruits of any of the abovementioned prohibited
27 acts knowing that the same are derived from the commission of a prohibited
28 act.

29 *Sec. 6. Penalties.* – The violation of this Act shall be punished with the following
30 penalties:

- 31 a) The penalty of imprisonment of not less than twelve (12) years but not more
32 than fifteen (15) years or a fine twice (2x) the market value of the

1 government property stolen in Philippine Currency, or both, at the discretion
2 of the court, shall be imposed on any person found guilty of stealing
3 government road and traffic signs, warning devices, accessories and other
4 facilities or any part thereof as defined in Section 4 of this Act;

5 b) The same penalty provided under paragraph (a) of this Section shall be
6 imposed on any person found guilty of selling, buying or possessing
7 government road and traffic signs, other risk reduction or warning devices,
8 accessories and other facilities or any part thereof as defined in Section 4
9 of this Act;

10 c) The penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more
11 than ten (10) years or a fine twice (2x) the market value of the government
12 property in Philippine Currency, or both, at the discretion of the court, shall
13 be imposed on any person found guilty of vandalizing, defacing, destroying,
14 damaging, tampering, or disassembling government road and traffic signs,
15 warning devices, accessories, and other facilities or any part thereof,
16 including man-hole covers as defined in Section 4 of this Act;

17 d) The penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more
18 than eight (8) years or a fine equivalent to the market value of the
19 government property in Philippine Currency, or both, at the discretion of the
20 court, shall be imposed on any person found guilty of unlawfully benefitting
21 from the proceeds or fruits of any of the prohibited acts enumerated in
22 Section 4 of this Act; and

23 e) Government employees found guilty of violation of this Act either as
24 principal or as an accomplice shall be penalized according to the penalties
25 prescribed in Section 6 of this Act. In addition, such government employees
26 shall forfeit all their retirement benefits and shall be barred from further
27 employment with the government.

28 *Sec. 7. Incentives.* – Cash incentives shall be provided to a person or persons
29 who will provide information leading to the apprehension of violators of this Act. The
30 amount of incentives shall be provided for in the rules and regulations to be
31 promulgated to implement this Act.

1 Sec. 8. *Non-applicability of Articles 308, 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code.*
2 – Articles 308, 309 and 310 of the Revised Penal Code shall not be applicable to cases
3 contemplated or enumerated in this Act.

4 Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within one hundred eighty
5 (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DPWH shall issue the necessary rules
6 and regulations for its implementation.

7 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
8 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
9 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

10 Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
11 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
12 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
13 accordingly.

14 Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
16 circulation in the Philippines.

17
18 *Approved,*