

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

SENATE



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 26

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws on DEC 18 2007

Re: Senate Bill No. 1965

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 305, 601, 1305 and 1384.

Sponsors: Senators Escudero and Gordon

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Justice and Human Rights and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws to which were referred Senate Bill No. 305, introduced by Senator Ejercito-Estrada, entitled:

**"AN ACT
DECRIMINALIZING CERTAIN ACTS OF VAGRANCY AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE ARTICLE TWO HUNDRED TWO OF ACT NO. 315 AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE"**

Senate Bill No. 601, introduced by Senator Ejercito-Estrada, entitled:

**"AN ACT
TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BY DECRIMINALIZING
CERTAIN FELONIES UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND PROVIDING FOR
THE IMPOSITION OF ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES SHORT OF DEPRIVATION OF
LIBERTY AND FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES"**

Senate Bill No. 1305, introduced by Senator Escudero, entitled:

**"AN ACT
TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BY DECRIMINALIZING
AND PROVIDING FOR THE IMPOSITION OF ALTERNATIVE PENALTIES
SHORT OF DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY FOR CERTAIN OFFENSES"**

Senate Bill No. 1384, introduced by Senator Legarda, entitled:

**"AN ACT
DECRIMINALIZING CERTAIN ACTS OF VAGRANCY AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE ARTICLE TWO HUNDRED TWO OF ACT NO. 3815 AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE"**


have considered the same and have the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached bill, Senate Bill No. 1965, prepared by the Committees, entitled:

**“AN ACT
DECRIMINALIZING VAGRANCY AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 202 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL
CODE”**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 305, 601, 1305 and 1384, with Senators Ejercito-Estrada, Legarda, Escudero and Gordon as authors thereof.


Respectfully Submitted:

Chairmen:



RICHARD J. GORDON
*Committee on Constitutional Amendments,
Revision of Codes and Laws*

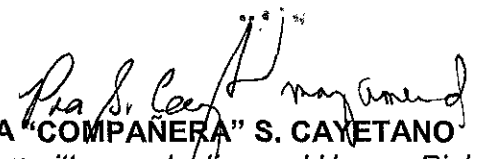

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Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Vice-Chairman:


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Senate President
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Republic of the Philippines)
FOURTEENTH CONGRESS)
First Regular Session)

7 1965

SENATE

RECEIVED 

S. No. 1965

Prepared jointly by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws with Senators Ejercito-Estrada, Legarda, Escudero and Gordon as authors thereof

**AN ACT
DECRIMINALIZING VAGRANCY AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE ARTICLE 202 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL
CODE**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code is hereby amended
2 to read as follows:

3 "Article 202. [Vagrants and p] Prostitutes; *penalty*. - [The
4 following are vagrants:

5 1. Any person having no apparent means of subsistence, who
6 has the physical ability to work and who neglects to apply himself or
7 herself to some lawful calling;

8 2. Any person found loitering about public *or* semi-public
9 buildings or places or tramping or wandering about the country or the
10 streets without visible means of support;

11 3. Any idle or dissolute person who lodges in houses of ill-
12 fame; ruffians or pimps and those who habitually associate with
13 prostitutes;

1 4. Any person who, not being included in the provisions of
2 other articles of this Code, shall be found loitering in any inhabited or
3 uninhabited place belong to another without any lawful or justifiable
4 purpose;

5 5. Prostitutes.]

6 For the purposes of this article, women who, for money or profit,
7 habitually indulge in sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct, are
8 deemed to be prostitutes.

9
10 Any person found guilty [of any] of the offense[s] covered by this
11 article shall be punished by *arresto menor* or a fine not exceeding 200
12 pesos, and in case of recidivism, by *arresto mayor* in its medium period to
13 *prision correccional* in its minimum period or a fine ranging from 200 to
14 2,000 pesos, or both, in the discretion of the court.

15
16 **SEC. 2.** *Effect on Pending Cases.* All pending cases under the provisions of
17 Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code prior to its amendment by this Act
18 shall be dismissed upon effectivity of this Act.

19
20 **SEC. 3.** *Immediate Release of Convicted Persons.* All persons serving
21 sentence for violation of the provisions of Article 202 of the Revised
22 Penal Code prior to its amendment by this Act shall be immediately
23 released upon effectivity of this Act, provided that they are not serving
24 sentence or detained for any other offense or felony.

25
26 **SEC. 4.** *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
27 rules and regulations, and other issuances, or any parts thereof,
28 *inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, modified or amended*
29 *accordingly.*

1 **SEC. 5.** *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
2 it publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3

4 **Approved,**