

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

8 JUN 11 P4:38

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 2407

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The new and heightened sense of history and national identity which has been achieved in this country has not been without adverse side-effects. One of the most deplorable is the theft of religious icons and cultural objects or artifacts from churches, temples and museums all over the country by criminal elements who have found new and lucrative market among equally unscrupulous dealers and middlemen in these objects.

This type of larceny threatens the gains attained in establishing our people's links to its past. Where religious objects are stolen, it also outrages our people's sense of the sacred and the holy.

The theft of these objects and, likewise of cultural artifacts and artistic works which constitute the finest expressions of our art, culture, traditions, and way of life, has aroused national indignation. This national indignation should find corresponding utterance in our criminal laws.

It is for this reason that it is here proposed that the penalty imposable on crimes involving the unlawful taking of religious and cultural objects from churches, temples and museums should be higher by two degrees than the penalty imposed for theft and robbery.

The adoption of the measure herein proposed is most strongly urged.

  
MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT  
TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR THEFT OR ROBBERY  
COMMITTED WITHIN THE PREMISES OF CHURCHES,  
TEMPLES AND MUSEUMS**

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

**SECTION 1.** The penalty to be imposed for theft or robbery committed within any church, temple or public museum shall be higher by two degrees than that imposable for such offenses under existing law

**SEC. 2.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,