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### FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

10 JUL -8 A10:43

## SENATE

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s. No. <u>941</u>

#### Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

# EXPLANATORY NOTE

Carnapping is one of the most rampant crimes facing the country today. Despite efforts by law-enforcement agencies to stamp out car theft activities, this problem remains unabated. "Carnapping" is defined as the taking, with intent to gain, of a motor vehicle belonging to another without the latter's consent, or by means of violence against or intimidation of persons, or by using force upon things.

Under Section 14 of Republic Act No. 6539, any person who is found guilty of carnapping, irrespective of the value of motor vehicle taken, be punished by imprisonment for not less than fourteen years and eight months and not more than seventeen years and four months, when the carnapping is committed without violence or intimidation of persons, or force upon things; and by imprisonment for not less than seventeen years and four months and not more than thirty years, when the carnapping is committed by means of violence against or intimidation of any person, or force upon things; and the penalty of life imprisonment to death shall be imposed when the owner, driver or occupant of the carnapped motor vehicle is killed in the commission of the carnapping.

Despite existence of said law, it is frustrating to note that the public officers in charge of registering motor vehicles - the Land Transportation Office - have been suspected to be in connivance with carnappers in processing the registration papers of the stolen vehicles. News reports indicate that select employees from the LTO office receive P20,000 to P30,000 a month from certain car theft syndicates.

To purge LTO officials suspected to have links with car theft syndicates and to eventually wipe out this abhorrent practice, a form of coddling syndicates, this bill seeks to punish any officer or employee of the said office who is responsible for registering any stolen vehicle.

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

ITO" M. LAPID Senator

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#### **AN ACT**

# PUNISHING ANY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGISTERING STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

**SECTION 1.** Republic Act No. 4136, otherwise known as the Land Transportation and Traffic Code, is hereby amended by inserting a new section 57-A to read as follows:

"SEC. 57-A. ANY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF A STOLEN VEHICLE SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH A FINE EQUIVALENT TO THE MARKET VALUE OF THE STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTERED OR IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN ONE YEAR NOR MORE THAN SIX (6) YEARS, OR BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

IN ADDITION THERETO SUCH OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE SHALL BE DISMISSED FROM THE SERVICE WITH PREJUDICE TO REINSTATEMENT OR REEMPLOYMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND BENEFITS OR PRIVILEGES THAT HE/SHE MAY BE ENTITLED TO SHALL BE FORFEITED.

SEC. 2. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected by such declaration, shall remain in full force and effect. **SEC. 3**. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, letters of instructions, rules and regulations, or provisions thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,