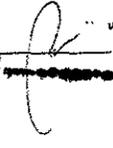


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 19 5:21

SENATE  
S. No. 1621

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 5 provides:

The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.

Crime is on the rise. Carnapping and bank robbery are among the crimes of choice of small time and organized criminal syndicates. Criminals resort to different ways and means to evade law enforcers in the commission of these crimes. One way to avoid the authorities is through the use of devices which obscure or lessen the legibility of plate numbers.

These devices may also be used to avoid vehicle identification in case of accidents or criminal negligence. This bill seeks to address the problems caused by these devices by prohibiting its sale and use.<sup>1</sup>

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

10 JUL 19 05 21

SENATE  
S. No. 1621

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT  
2 PROHIBITING THE SALE OF MERCHANDISE DESIGNED TO CONCEAL OR OBSCURE  
3 LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “License Plate Concealment  
7 Act.”

8 SECTION 2. *Definition of terms.* – As used in this Act, the term–

9 (A) “License plate” refers to the regular motor vehicle license plate issued by the Land  
10 Transportation Office bearing the standard alphanumeric characters in accordance with  
11 Batas Pambansa number 43 and 74;

12 (B) “Office” refers to the Land Transportation Office;

13 SECTION 3. *Prohibition on the concealment of license plates.* – It shall be unlawful to  
14 knowingly sell, offer for sale, distribute, use or possess any merchandise, including but not  
15 limited to retractable license plate holders, high gloss reflective spray, or anti-photograph license  
16 plate cover, that is specifically designed to conceal, degrade the legibility, or otherwise obstruct  
17 any part of any marking imprinted upon a vehicle’s license plate.

18 SECTION 4. *Penalties.* – The Office is empowered to establish and assess penalties or  
19 fines against the registered owner of a vehicle for violations of this Act. In no circumstance will  
20 any penalty or fine exceed P10,000.00.

21 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
22 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
23 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

1           SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3           Approved,