

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

OFFICE

8 DEC -3 AM 2014

SENATE

S. NO. 2921

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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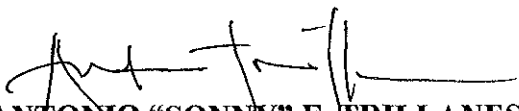
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The involvement of certain members of law enforcement agencies in criminal activities has greatly diminished our faith and confidence to these people in government. Almost everyday we hear, read, or see in media the involvement of some of our law enforcers in petty crimes to alleged attempt to cover-up heinous crimes.

There seems now a need to address the growing fear and distrust among our people to some of these "villains" in uniform by treating those persons in authority who cause or order the destruction or concealment of evidence to a crime as accomplices to the crime.

This proposed measure seeks to amend Article 19 of the Revised Penal Code by prescribing a higher penalty for persons in authority as accessories who directly cause or order the destruction or concealment of vital evidence for heinous crimes.

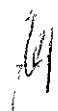
In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV**  
Senator

8 DEC -3 AIC 144

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AN ACT  
PRESCRIBING A HIGHER PENALTY FOR PERSONS IN AUTHORITY AS  
ACCESSORIES, WHO DIRECTLY CAUSE OR ORDER THE DESTRUCTION  
OR CONCEALMENT OF VITAL EVIDENCE FOR HEINOUS CRIMES,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 19 OF THE REVISED PENAL  
CODE

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

1        **Section 1.** Article 19 of the Penal Code is hereby amended by adding another  
2 paragraph:

3        "WHERE THE OFFENSE IS A HEINOUS CRIME UNDER EXISTING LAWS  
4 AND IS COMMITTED BY PERSONS IN AUTHORITY, THEY SHALL SUFFER  
5 THE PENALTY ONE DEGREE HIGHER THAN THAT PRESCRIBED BY LAW FOR  
6 THE CONSUMMATED FELONY."

7  
8        **Sec. 2. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or  
9 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall  
10 remain valid and subsisting.

11  
12        **Sec. 3. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
13 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or  
14 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended  
15 accordingly.

1           **Sec. 4. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2   publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,