

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

SENATE
S. No. 1961

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Academic achievement is very important in obtaining employment, a promotion or higher compensation in employment, or admission to a prestigious institution. It is likewise important when presented in connection with any profession or occupation. It is imperative, therefore, that such academic achievement be obtained only through the efforts of the person claiming it as his or her own, and not the work of people he or she just paid to write his or her dissertations, theses, term papers, essays, reports or any other assignment.

Hence, this bill seeks to make it unlawful for any person to sell, offer to sell, purchase or offer to purchase any material either written or provided through electronic media which will be submitted by a student as his or her own work to any university, college, academy, school or other educational institution, or to a course, seminar or degree program held by such institution.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, First Regular session.

SENATE
S. No. 1961

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1 AN ACT
2 PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL SALE AND PURCHASE OF DISSERTATIONS,
3 THESES, TERM PAPERS, ESSAYS, REPORTS, OR ANY OTHER ASSIGNMENT

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as "Academic Honesty Act."
5

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to promote the
7 general welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, this Act makes it unlawful to sell,
8 offer to sell, purchase or offer to purchase dissertations, theses, term papers, essays, reports
9 or any other assignment which will be submitted by a student as his or her own work to any
10 university, college, academy, school or other educational institution, or to a course, seminar
11 or degree program held by such institution.
12

13 SECTION 3. *Prohibition on Unlawful Sale of Dissertations, Theses and Term*
14 *Papers.* - No person shall, for financial consideration, or the promise of financial
15 consideration, prepare, offer to prepare, cause to be prepared, sell or offer for sale to any
16 person any material either written or provided through electronic media which the seller
17 knows, is informed or has reason to believe is intended for submission by a student as his or
18 her own dissertation, thesis, term paper, essay, report or other assignment, as a requirement
19 of any university, college, academy, school or other educational institution, or of any course,
20 seminar or degree program held by such institution.
21

1 SECTION 4. *Prohibition on Unlawful Purchase of Dissertations, Theses and Term*
2 *Papers.* - It shall likewise be unlawful for any person to purchase, or to offer to purchase,
3 from any person any material either written or provided through electronic media which the
4 buyer intends to submit as his or her dissertation, thesis, term paper, essay, report or other
5 assignment as a requirement of any university, college, academy, school or other educational
6 institution, or of any course, seminar or degree program held by such institution.

7
8 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* - Any person found guilty of violating the preceding Section
9 shall be punished by a penalty of imprisonment of *arresto menor*, or a fine of not more than
10 Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, taking into
11 consideration all attending circumstances.

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13 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
14 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
15 remain valid and subsisting.

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17 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
18 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
19 with the provisions of this act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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21 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,