FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

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SENATE

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s. No. 2365

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Portable telecommunication devices have become indispensable tools in modern life. However, reports from law enforcement agencies reveal a high incidence of thievery of these devices, brought on by high demand for said devices and the ease with which the thieves are able to sell these stolen items.

As such, there is an urgent need to protect our people from targeted theft of these telecommunication devices.

This bill proposes to punish the malefactor by imposing heavier penalties. The approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



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

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SENATE

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s. No. <u>23</u>65

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

AN ACT

PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THE CRIME OF THEFT AND ROBBERY OF PORTABLE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Anti- Theft and Robbery of Portable Telecommunication Devices Act."

Sec. 2. Definition. - Portable telecommunication device shall refer to cellular telephones, personal digital assistants, portable computers, two-way very high frequency (VHF) or ultra high frequency (UHF) radios and other portable communication equipments utilized to transmit messages, documents, photos, images, videos, or information through air, radio or satellite frequencies.

Sec. 3. Penal Provision. - Any person convicted of the crime of theft and robbery as defined under chapters one and three of Title Ten of the Revised Penal Code of a portable telecommunication device shall be punished by the penalty next higher in degree than those respectively specified in the aforementioned articles; *Provided*, that the additional penalty specified herein shall no longer be made applicable if the imposable penalty is in its maximum period.

Sec. 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 5. Separability Clause. - If my portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

Sec. 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazzette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

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