

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 383

RECEIVED BY: *Jui*

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure is a consolidated/substituted bill drafted by the Committee on Justice and Human Rights during the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) reported an alarming increase in the incidence of thievery of mobile phones, commonly known as cellphone snatching, thereby adversely affecting the personal security of our people and their means of communication.

There is an urgent need to protect our people from cellphone snatchers as well as thieves of other related gadgets such as personal digital assistants and laptop or notebook computers which are devices for information and communication.

This bill seeks to provide stiffer penalties for crime of theft and robbery of portable communication devices such as cellphones, personal digital assistants, portable computers, two-way radios and other portable communication equipment.

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

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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AN ACT  
PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CRIME OF THEFT AND ROBBERY  
OF PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 of 2013**".

**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 Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*