

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

73 JUL 15 P4:20

SENATE  
S. No. 732

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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#### 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.<sup>1</sup>

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

*MS*

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<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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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 SCHOOL  
4 ASSIGNMENT

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

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

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

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  
6 educational institution, or of any course, seminar, or degree program held by such  
7 institution.

8           SECTION 5. *Penalties.* - Any person found guilty of violating Sections 3 and 4 shall  
9 be punished by a penalty of imprisonment of *arresto menor*, or a fine of not more than Ten  
10 Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, taking into  
11 consideration all attending circumstances.

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

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

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

Approved,