## SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

15 MAY 18 P4:39

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# SENATE S. B. No. **2771**

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### Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

### AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8484, ALSO KNOWN AS AN ACT REGULATING THE ISSUANCE AND USE OF ACCESS DEVICES, PROHIBITING FRAUDULENT ACTS COMMITTED RELATIVE THERETO, PROVIDING PENALTIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 5, provides:

The maintenance of peace and order, and the protection of ...property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for he enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.

The current law prohibiting fraudulent acts in relation to the production, acquisition, and use of access devices is outdated, such that the penalties prescribed are no longer commensurate to the crimes committed. In effect, as recent news reports would claim, those responsible for trafficking numerous access devices and those who are repeat offenders do not feel the full brunt of the law. Likewise, those who simply possess fraudulently obtained access devices or counterfeit access devices suffer the same penalty as those who traffic fraudulent devices.

This bill seeks to update the penalties prescribed in the Access Devices Regulation Act in order to curb the increasing number of those who engage in the trafficking of fraudulently obtained access devices, and to deter syndicates from committing any of the prohibited acts enumerated under R.A. No. 8484. This bill also aims to address the iniquitous disparity between the law's prohibited acts and their corresponding penalties.

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO



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

1	AN ACT
2	AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8484, ALSO KNOWN AS AN
3	ACT REGULATING THE ISSUANCE AND USE OF ACCESS DEVICES,
4	PROHIBITING FRAUDULENT ACTS COMMITTED RELATIVE THERETO,
5	PROVIDING PENALTIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
6	SECTION 1. Republic Act No. 8484, Section 10 is hereby amended to read as
7	follows:
8	Section 10. Penalties Any person committing any of the acts
9	constituting access device fraud enumerated in the immediately preceding
10	section shall be punished with:
11	(a) A FINE OF TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (₽20,000.00) OR
12	TWICE THE VALUE OBTAINED BY THE OFFENDER,
13	WHICHEVER IS GREATER AND IMPRISONMENT FOR
14	NOT LESS THAN TWO (2) YEARS AND NOT MORE
15	THAN SIX (6) YEARS, IN THE CASE OF AN OFFENSE
16	UNDER SECTION 9 (E), (I), (K), (L), (O), AND (P), WHICH
17	DOES NOT OCCUR AFTER A CONVICTION FOR
18	<b>ANOTHER OFFENSE UNDER SECTION 9;</b>
19	(b) a fine of <del>Ten</del> <b>TWENTY</b> thousand pesos (P10,000.00)
20	$(\mathbf{P20,000.00})$ or twice the value obtained by the offense,

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whichever is greater and imprisonment for not less than six (6)
years and not more than ten (10) years, in the case of an offense
under Section 9 (b)-(e) and (g)-(p) (C), (D), (H), (J), (M), AND
(N), which does not occur after a conviction for another offense
under Section 9;

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6 (b) a fine of Ten FIFTY thousand pesos (P10,000.00) (P50,000.00) 7 or twice the value obtained by the offense, and imprisonment for not less 8 than ten (10) years and for not more than twelve (12) years, in the case of 9 an offense under Section 9 (a)-(B), and (f)-(G) of the foregoing section, 10 which does not occur after a conviction for another offense under Section 9; 11 and

12 (c) a fine of Ten ONE HUNDRED thousand pesos (P10,000.00) 13 (#100,000.00) or twice the value obtained by the offense, or imprisonment 14 for not less than twelve (12) years and not more than twenty (20) years, or 15 both, in the case ANY OFFENSE UNDER SECTION 9 WAS 16 **COMMITTED BY A SYNDICATE OF THREE OR MORE PEOPLE** OR IN THE CASE ANY offense under Section 9 which occurs after a 17 conviction for another offense under said subsection, or an attempt to 18 19 commit the same.

SECTION 2. Separability Clause. – If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid
 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the laws or the provision not otherwise affected
 *shall* remain valid and subsisting.

23 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause*. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
 24 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to

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or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
 accordingly.

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

Approved,

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at30April2015