


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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JUL 20 P5:21

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 724

Introduced by **Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

**AN ACT PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THEFT, ROBBERY AND
DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Theft, robbery and destruction of public school property are more than just crimes against public property. They certainly constitute brazen assault on our educational institutions and a grievous attack to our country's educational system.

Given that the materials involved are vital components of the educational process, such crimes undermine the education of our children, jeopardize their future and threaten to derail the government's avowed mission to provide quality education to all Filipinos.

This bill will increase the jail time and monetary penalties for felons convicted of theft, robbery and destruction of public school property. In view of the security vulnerabilities of our schools, there is undoubtedly an urgent need for a stronger deterrent against such crimes.

This proposed legislative measure, if enacted into law, will certainly provide that much-needed deterrent.

Hence, the passage of this bill is hereby earnestly sought.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR


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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Public School
2 Security Act of 2016”.

3 SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the following
4 terms shall mean:

5 a. “School property” refers to all buildings, grounds and other property, real
6 and personal, which belong to a public school, whether the property is acquired
7 through public funds, loans, donations or lease.

8 b. “Public School” refers to all state-owned schools, colleges and universities.

9 SEC. 3. *Penalty for Theft and Robbery of School Property.* – Any person
10 convicted of the crime of theft or robbery as defined under Chapters One and Three
11 of Title Ten of the Revised Penal Code of any school property shall be punished by
12 the penalty next higher in degree than those respectively specified in the
13 aforementioned articles of the Revised Penal Code: *Provided*, That the additional
14 penalty specified herein shall no longer be made applicable if the impossible penalty
15 is in its maximum period.

16 SEC. 4. *Penalty for Destruction of School Property.* – A public school building
17 shall be considered a building of public ownership devoted to the use of public in

1 general under Article 320 of the Revised Penal Code. Any person who shall burn a
2 public school building shall be convicted of the crime of destructive arson as defined
3 in Article 320 of the Revised Penal Code.

4 **SEC. 5. *Penalty for Special Case of Malicious Mischief.*** – Destruction to
5 school property not covered by the immediately preceding Sections shall be
6 considered a special case of malicious mischief under Chapter Nine of Title Ten of
7 the Revised Penal Code. Any person who shall cause damage to school property
8 shall be punished with the penalty next higher in degree than those specified in
9 Articles 328 and 329 of the Revised Penal Code.

10 **SEC. 6. *Penalty for Public Officials.*** – If the person convicted of the crimes
11 referred in this Act is a public official as defined in Republic Act No. 6713 or the
12 Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, the
13 additional penalty of perpetual disqualification from public office shall be imposed.
14 Conviction of a public officer under this Act is without prejudice to criminal
15 prosecution and/or administrative proceedings under applicable Civil Service laws
16 and regulations, Republic Act No. 6713, and Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft
17 and Corrupt Practices Act.

18 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations,
19 and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
20 repealed or modified accordingly.

21 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion of this Act is declared
22 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
23 remain in force and effect.

24 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect 15 days after its
25 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

26 Approved,