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SENATE

S. No. 339

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Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

AN ACT

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

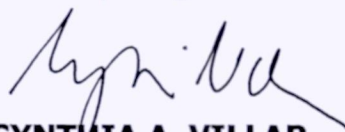
Theft, robbery and destruction of public school property are more than just crimes against public property. They certainly constitute brazen assault on our educational institutions and a grievous attack to our country's educational system.

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:

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Public School Security Act of 2019”.

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

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

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

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

1 Sec. 4. *Penalty for Destruction of School Property.* – A public school building
2 shall be considered a building of public ownership devoted to the use of public in
3 general under Article 320 of the Revised Penal Code. Any person who shall burn a
4 public school building shall be convicted of the crime of destructive arson as defined
5 in Article 320 of the Revised Penal Code.

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

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

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

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

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

28 Approved,