

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )**



20 FEB 11 A9:23

**SENATE**  
S.B. No. 1330

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

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**AN ACT  
AMENDING ARTICLE 183 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Perjury is committed by any person who, knowingly makes untruthful statements and not being included in the provisions of the crimes of false testimony, shall testify under oath, or make an affidavit, upon any material matter before a competent person authorized to administer an oath in cases in which the law so requires.<sup>1</sup>

Article 183 of Act No. 3815 or the Revised Penal Code, as amended, provides for the penalty for perjury in solemn affirmation:

Article 183. False testimony in other cases and perjury in solemn affirmation. - The penalty of arresto mayor in its maximum period to prision correccional in its minimum period shall be imposed upon any person, who knowingly makes untruthful statements and not being included in the provisions of the next preceding articles, shall testify under oath, or make an affidavit, upon any material matter before a competent person authorized to administer an oath in cases in which the law so requires.

Any person who, in case of a solemn affirmation made in lieu of an oath, shall commit any of the falsehoods mentioned in this and the three preceding articles of this section, shall suffer the respective penalties provided therein.

Presently, the penalty provided for perjury is arresto mayor in its maximum period to prision correccional in its minimum period which has a range of four (4) months and one (1) day to two (2) years and four (4) months.

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<sup>1</sup> People v. Cruz, G.R. No. L-27978, L-27981-92, February 25, 1982.

With the passage of this bill, the penalty for perjury will be increased to prison correccional in its medium period to prison correccional in its maximum period, which will be imprisonment from two (2) years four (4) months one (1) day to six (6) years.

Perjury is a serious offense as it can derail the basic goal of the justice system – discovering the truth. The increase in the penalty will serve as a deterrent to the commission of the crime of perjury. This will help in the better administration of justice.



**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING ARTICLE 183 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED,**  
**OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE**

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

1       **SECTION 1.** Article 183 of Act No. 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the  
2 Revised Penal Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:  
3

4           "Article 183. False testimony in other cases and perjury in solemn  
5 affirmation. - The penalty of [~~arresto mayor in its maximum~~  
6 ~~period to prision correccional in its minimum period~~]  
7 **PRISION CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MEDIUM PERIOD TO**  
8 **PRISION CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD** shall  
9 be imposed upon any person, who knowingly makes untruthful  
10 statements and not being included in the provisions of the next  
11 preceding articles, shall testify under oath, or make an affidavit,  
12 upon any material matter before a competent person authorized to  
13 administer an oath in cases in which the law so requires.  
14

15           Any person who, in case of a solemn affirmation made in lieu of an  
16 oath, shall commit any of the falsehoods mentioned in this and the  
17 three preceding articles of this section, shall suffer the respective  
18 penalties provided therein."  
19

20       **Sec. 2. Repealing Clause.** All laws, rules and regulations that may be  
21 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended  
22 accordingly.  
23

24       **Sec. 3. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
25 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of  
26 general circulation in the Philippines.  
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28       *Approved,*