-	SENATE S. B. No. <u>994</u>	RECEIVED BY:
NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session)	Senate of the Secretary 22 AUG -3 All:11

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT

AUTHORIZING WIRETAPPING IN CASES INVOLVING VIOLATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002", AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4200, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO PROHIBIT AND PENALIZE WIRETAPPING AND OTHER RELATED VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVACY OF COMMUNICATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The crisis on illegal drugs continues to plague the country and its development by persistently perverting the youth and other individuals through abuse and addiction to these substances that destroy not only their health, but also their aspirations for the future. According to the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), there are approximately 1.67 million or two out of 100 Filipinos aged 10 to 69 are illegal drug users in the country as of 2019. DDB further claimed that about 4.73 million or six out of every 100 Filipinos aged 10-69 tried drugs at least once in their life.

Throughout the Philippines, a least 10,410 barangays are still affected by the problem on illegal drugs as of April 30, 2022. Worse, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in its 2021 Synthetic Drugs in East and Southeast Asia Report observed that despite the COVID-19 mobility restrictions, the annual seizure of crystalline methamphetamine in 2020 exceeded the quantity recorded for 2019.

It is apparent that the problem on illicit drugs is still a cause of concern as it now causes the rapid decay of our country and its reputation globally. This proposed measure aims to authorize wiretapping in cases involving violations of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 to effectively crackdown on drug traffickers and dealers.

Considering the assistance of this proposed legislation would provide to law enforcement authorities in promptly apprehending and solving cases of drug dealing

and/or trafficking individuals and groups, an immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

SONNY ANGARA



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE	
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES	
First Regular Session	

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SENATE S. B. No. 994

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 4200, entitled "An Act to Prohibit and Penalize Wiretapping and Other Related Violations of the Privacy of Communication, and for Other Purposes", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. Nothing contained in this Act, however, shall render it unlawful or punishable for any peace officer AND LAW ENFORCER, who is authorized by a written order of the Court, to execute any of the acts declared to be unlawful in the two preceding sections in cases involving the crimes of treason, espionage, provoking war and disloyalty in case of war, piracy, mutiny in the high seas, rebellion, conspiracy and proposal to commit rebellion, inciting to rebellion, sedition, conspiracy to commit sedition, inciting to sedition, kidnapping as defined by the Revised Penal Code, VIOLATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002, and violations of Commonwealth Act No. 616, punishing espionage and other offenses against national security: *Provided*, That such written order shall only be issued or

granted upon written application and the examination under oath or affirmation of the applicant and the witnesses he may produce and a showing: (1) that there are reasonable grounds to believe that any of the crimes enumerated hereinabove has been committed or is being committed or is about to be committed: *Provided, however,* That in cases involving the offenses of rebellion. Conspiracy and proposal to commit rebellion, inciting to rebellion. sedition, conspiracy to commit sedition, and inciting to sedition, such authority shall be granted only upon prior proof that a rebellion or acts of sedition, as the case may be, have actually been or are being committed; (2) that there are reasonable grounds to believe that evidence will be obtained essential to the conviction of any person for, or to the solution of, or to the prevention of, any of such crimes; and (3) that there are no other means readily available for obtaining such evidence.

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"The court referred to in this section shall be understood to mean the [Court of First Instance] REGIONAL TRIAL COURT within whose territorial jurisdiction the acts for which authority is applied for are to be executed."

- SEC. 2. Separability Clause. If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.
- SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
- SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,