

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session


HOUSE BILL NO. 1493

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by: Representative Harlin Neil J. Abayon III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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 measure was previously filed by Senator Manny Villar in the 15th Congress. Passage of this bill is earnestly sought now in the 17th Congress.


HARLIN NEIL J. ABAYON III
Representative
Party-List AANGAT TAYO

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

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as “Public School Property Security Act.”

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. –

- 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.

SECTION 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 impossible penalty is in its maximum period.

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

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

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

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

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. - If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,