

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3831**



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Introduced by **HONORABLE STRIKE B. REVILLA**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It is highly important to uphold the trust of our citizens in the integrity of public officials and officers. Once this trust is tarnished or diminished, allegiances falter and the victim that truly suffers in the end is society itself. When people are disillusioned with their leaders, there is unrest. Everything that follows is viewed with scepticism and the people as a whole become uncooperative and unproductive. This is why it is vital for us government officials to value and uphold our integrity and honour. We must always make sure that all decisions and actions are centered towards the good of all.

There are however, some individuals and groups who aim to disrupt the peace and tarnish trust by filing false and trumped up complaints towards elected officials and officers of the government. Some are driven by personal vendetta towards the official and uses the claims to harass, while some are motivated by political rivalry with the aim of discrediting or even removing an opponent from office.

These baseless lawsuits and complaints are a nuisance not only to the falsely accused, but to the system as well. They are a waste of time and money to the judicial system. This bill sees to punish and penalize those malicious enough to use the system to file false complaints for their own gain. I urge my colleagues to join me and work with me for the swift passage of this measure.

  
**REP. STRIKE B. REVILLA**  
2nd District of Cavite

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING ARTICLE 183 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, DECLARING THE**  
**FILING OF FALSE COMPLAINTS AGAINST PUBLIC OFFICERS AS AN**  
**AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES OF PERJURY.**

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

**Section 1.** Article 183 of Act No. 3815, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

*"Art. 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 make 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 made in this and the three preceding articles of this section, shall suffer the respective penalties provided therein.

**A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY FILES A FALSE COMPLAINT AGAINST A PUBLIC OFFICER OF A GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR ANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MINIMUM TO ITS MEDIUM PERIOD AND PAY A FINE OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50, 000.00) OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.**

**IF DURING THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION OR TRIAL IT IS PROVEN THAT THE FALSE COMPLAINT WAS USED BY THE ACCUSER AS A LEVERAGE AGAINST THE PUBLIC OFFICER IN ORDER TO GAIN ADVANTAGE IN A GOVERNMENT CONTRACT OR TO RECEIVE A FAVORABLE DECISION OR RESOLUTION IN AN ONGOING DISPUTE, CONTROVERSY OR MATTER WHERE THE LATTER IS THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY, THE FORMER SHALL SUFFER A PENALTY OF PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MINIMUM TO ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD AND PAY A FINE OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100, 000.00) OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.**

**Section 2. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- a. *"Public Officer"* – refers to any person whose duties, not being of a clerical or manual nature, involves the exercise of discretion in the performance of the functions of the government. When used with reference to a person having authority to do a particular act or perform a particular function in the exercise of government power, *"officers"* includes any government employee, agent or body having authority to do the act or exercise that function.
- b. *"Government"* - refers to the corporate governmental entity through which the functions of the government are exercised throughout the Philippines, including, save as the contrary appears from the context, the various arms through which political authority is made effective in the Philippines, whether pertaining to the autonomous regions, the provincial, city, municipal or barangay subdivisions or other forms of local government.
- c. *"Complaint"* – shall refer to a sworn statement in writing executed by any person for the purpose of charging a public officer with a fabricated or untruthful or false offense.

**Section 3. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

**Section 4. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other executive issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

**Section 5. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,