

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

S E N A T E
S.B. No. 1335

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The incidents of cellphone snatching at gunpoint are increasing day by day. In most cases, the perpetrators kill their victim on resistance. In many cases, the perpetrator while snatching the cellphone also snatches cash and other valuables from their victims. The main reason for cellphone snatching is that it can be sold in the black market for less than its cost in the open market. It is such a small item that once snatched or stolen, it can be carried by the snatcher or thief undetected. Therefore, cellphones have become an attractive item for felons.

There is an urgent need to protect our people from cellphone snatchers as well as thieves of other portable telecommunication devices, such as personal digital assistants and portable computers, which have become indispensable devices for information and communication in the daily lives of our people.

This bill proposes to deter malefactors from snatching mobile phones and other portable telecommunication devices by imposing stiffer penalties.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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SENATE
S.B. No. 1335

APPROVED

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

AN ACT
PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THE CRIME OF THEFT AND
ROBBERY OF PORTABLE TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Theft and Robbery
2 of Portable Telecommunication Devices Act of 2010."

3
4 **Sec. 2. Definition.** - "Portable telecommunication device" shall refer to
5 cellular telephones, personal digital assistants, portable computers, two-way very
6 high frequency (VHF) or ultra high frequency (UHF) radios, and other portable
7 communication equipments utilized to transmit messages, documents, photos,
8 images, videos, or information through air, radio or satellite frequencies.

9
10 **Sec. 3. Penal Provision.** - Any person convicted of the crime of theft and
11 robbery, as defined under Chapters One and Three of Title Ten of the Revised Penal
12 Code, of a portable telecommunication device shall be punished by the penalty next
13 higher in degree than those respectively specified in the aforementioned articles:
14 *Provided,* That the additional penalty specified herein shall no longer be made
15 applicable if the imposable penalty is in its maximum period.

16
17 **Sec. 4. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
18 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
19 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

20

1 **Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.*** - If any portion or provision of this Act is
2 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected
3 thereby shall remain in force and effect.

4
5 **Sec. 6. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
6 its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

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8 Approved,