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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 599



Introduced by REP. FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Existing laws seeking to prevent or abate graft and corruption in government already penalize persons who receive a present, gift or any material or pecuniary advantage as well as those who, without being legally authorized to do so, actually intervene, directly or indirectly in any business, transaction, application, request or contract with the government.

Prior to the receipt of any gift or present or the actual act of intervening, however, is the offer or representation made by a person that he can influence the public official or employee required by law to intervene or be able to assist and/or facilitate a transaction, contract or request with the government which, up to now, remains unabated.

It is this gap which this bill seeks to fill by penalizing influence peddling or the mere act of representing oneself to another person having a transaction or request with the government thus effectively clipping corruption at its inception even before any gift or present is given and even before there has actually been an intervention in connection with such request or transaction.

With the enactment into law of this bill, it is believed that an effective deterrent will be set up to nip corruption at the bud and prior to any damage being inflicted upon government coffers as well as on our people with legitimate transactions or dealings with government.


FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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**AN ACT PENALIZING INFLUENCE PEDDLING
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Influence Peddling Act".

SECTION 2. *Definition.* - It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in influence peddling which is hereby defined as the act of representing oneself, either orally or in writing, as being able, whether real or imagined, to influence, facilitate or assist another person having some business, transaction, application, request or contract with the government in which a public official or employee has to intervene.

SECTION 3. *Penalties for Violation.* - Any person who engages in influence peddling as defined by this Act shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than six (6) years or a fine not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (100,000.00), or both, and disqualification to hold public office.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of the Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees and orders or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after thirty (30) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,