

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

Thirteenth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 640

Introduced by Honorable MONICO O. PUENTEVELLA

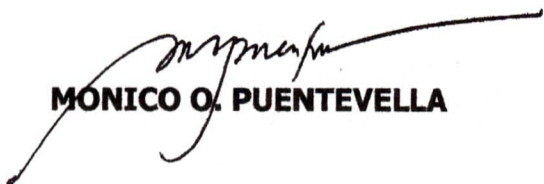
EXPLANATORY NOTE

We have seen public service programs featuring exposes on the so-called Iloilo, Cebu and the recent Dumaguete scandals. These are stolen video footages of actual people caught in various states of undress or engaged in the sexual act. Taken from hidden cameras inside boarding houses, dormitories or motels, reproduced and then distributed for public consumption, this is a blatant invasion of privacy – an act which could only be described as maliciously motivated and therefore, should be criminally prosecuted.

With the advent of the Internet and information technology, a lot of pictures have been downloaded, exchanged hands and passed thru email. While some pictures are copyrighted, a lot of these are stolen shots of people or groups caught in compromising situations in venues mentioned above and such places as shower stalls, saunas, dressing rooms, comfort rooms, even up-the-skirt pictures – this is another deliberate invasion of privacy by people with voyeuristic tendencies.

Though this may prove entertaining and amusing to most people, the victims of voyeurism, especially those whose pictures or video has been circulated to the public, do not find this funny. These victims have been humiliated and may be scarred for life, not knowing and not understanding why they have to endure such from the hands of an individual or group motivated by their perversion or money or both.

It is high time that such persons or groups be punished to fullest extent of the law. Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MONICO O. PUENTEVELLA

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**AN ACT CRIMINALIZING VIDEO AND PHOTO VOYEURISM AND
IMPOSING PENALTIES THEREOF.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in session assembled.

Section 1. Short Title – Anti-Voyeurism Act of 2004

Section 2. Any camera or video coverage obtained on the activities of a person or group occurring within but limited to the privacy of a private dwelling, dormitory, boarding house and the like, hotel/motel, comfort rooms, spas or sauna baths and dressing rooms, either for the purpose of posterity, display or distribution by an individual or connivance with group without the individual or unanimous consent of party or parties involved, whichever the case may be, shall be held liable for video or photo voyeurism.

Section 3. Any person or persons found guilty of video or photo voyeurism shall be penalized with imprisonment for a period of at least eighteen (18) months to a maximum of four (4) years, and/or fines not exceeding TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,