

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 794

Introduced by Representative Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The bill is primarily intended as an effective weapon for the government to detect, flush, ferret, subdue and destroy law-breakers and racketeers and carpetbaggers.

Approval of this bill is expected to generate millions of urgently needed revenue to help us balance a deficit-ridden budget and relieve the pressures and stresses on a much beleaguered National Treasury, add hundreds of thousands of policemen and undercover agents for our peace agencies without the need of a budgetary outlay; and provide temporary employment and refuge for an equal number of our unemployed citizens.

In the newspapers, on television and radio, our people read, watch and hear the continuing appeals of our police agencies to their sense of patriotism and civic pride to report crimes and criminals. In this country of relative mass unemployment and soaring prices, our people have long ago discovered that patriotism and civic pride alone cannot keep body and soul together. This bill provides the remedy – a monetary incentive, a reward, a just and reasonable compensation.

This bill supports the philosophy that all the laws of the Republic have equal majesty and that we enforce them all with equal vigor, dedication and impartiality.

Approval, therefore, of the attached bills earnestly requested.

HARLIN CAST. ABAYON

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A UNIFORM REWARD SYSTEM IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIMES AND LAWLESSNESS.

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

SECTION 1. Any person, or a group of persons, define for purposes of this Act as government-informer, having knowledge of frauds upon and violations of any law of the Republic of the Philippines, may voluntarily submit, personally or by registered mail to any responsible government official a sworn statement or affidavit stating the time, place, manner and other circumstances of any act which in his best and honest judgment is patently in violation of the law, or furnishing information which may lead to the arrest and apprehension of a fugitive or wanted criminal. For such information, a government informer shall be entitled to receive a compensation or reward as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2. The compensation from the Government of a government – informer shall be limited to the payment of a reward equivalent to twenty-five *per centum* shall be used to augment the current appropriations set aside in the General Appropriations Act to subsidize and standardize the salaries of policemen. The revenue collections may consist of the proceeds from the sales of any property forfeited or confiscated, fines, indemnities, assessments, duties, taxes, surcharges, penalties and compromises.

SECTION 3. Private persons and corporations shall pay also a government-informer a reward equivalent to twenty-five *per centum* of their collections directly resulting from a sworn statement furnished by a government-informer. The collections of privates persons and corporations may consist of damages, indemnities, contributions, fees and premium refunds, adjustments, salaries and commissions.

SECTION 4. The total revenue collections due the government and the cash benefits due private persons and corporations directly resulting from a sworn statement furnished by a government-informer shall be collected by the Secretary of Finance or his authorized representatives only upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction after trial and conviction.

SECTION 5. The cash benefits due private persons and corporations and reward due government-informers shall be tax-exempt and payable promptly, through brokers of their choice and confidence, by the Secretary of Finance or his authorized representatives in the form of registered Progress Bonds issued by the Development Bank of the Philippines which shall not be convertible into cash within five years from the date of issue: Provided, however, That a government-informer may in writing exercise the option to have his reward paid in cash subject to the payment of income tax, or to have all or any portion thereof donated to the government to augment the current appropriations set aside in the General Appropriations Act to subsidize and standardize the salaries of policemen. The broker's commission shall also be tax-exempt if paid in the form of Progress Bond Certificates.

SECTION 6. Should the sworn statement later turn or be proven to be false or to have been made only for the purpose of harassing, molesting or any way prejudicing the person denounced, the person so denounced shall be entitled to any action, criminal or civil as the circumstances and the facts may warrant: Provided, however, That the identity of the government-informer shall not be revealed without his consent except when the sworn statement is proven to be malicious or false.

SECTION 7. Any person violating any provision of this Act shall suffer an imprisonment for not less than one year and one day and to pay a fine of not less than two thousand (P2,000.00) pesos.

SECTION 8. Republic Act Numbered Two Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty-Eight and all other laws providing for the payment of reward to informers of frauds upon and violations of any law of the Republic of the Philippines are hereby repealed.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,