

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1383



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Introduced by **Honorable Matias V. Defensor, Jr.**

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**AN ACT REPEALING THE PROVISIONS OF VAGRANCY AND AMENDING  
THE DEFINITION OF PROSTITUTES AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 202 OF  
THE REVISED PENAL CODE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

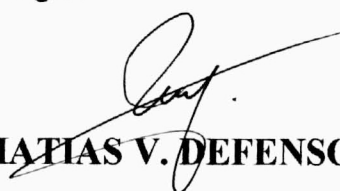
This bill repeals the law on vagrancy as provided in Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code.

The law on vagrancy is out of date. Vagrancy should be looked upon as victims of their ill circumstance, not as common criminals who should be rounded up and used as milking cows by rogue law enforcers.

The present law has been used as a pretext in violating the rights of individuals. Law enforcers at present have sweeping powers to apprehend and detain people whom they deem as vagrants. In many cases, individuals' rights to freedom of movement is violated in the process.

This bill also amends the definition of prostitute to include not only "women" but also "any person" who "for money or profit, habitually engages in sexual intercourse or lascivious acts".

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**MATIAS V. DEFENSOR, JR.**

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

**Section 1.** Paragraph 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code are hereby repealed.

**Section 2.** Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Article 202. *Prostitutes - Penalty.* For the purpose of this article:

Section 1. Any person who, for money or profit, habitually indulges in sexual intercourse or lascivious conduct, deemed as a prostitute.

Section 2. Any person found guilty of being a prostitute shall be punished by *arresto menor* or a fine not exceeding 200 pesos, and in case of recidivism, by *arresto menor* in medium period to *prison correctional* in its minimum period or a fine ranging from 200 to 2,000 pesos, or both, at the discretion of the court.

**Section 3. Repealing Clause.** All laws and decrees or parts thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Section 4. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.