

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2876



Introduce by Honorable Raul T. Gonzalez, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to impose a stiffer penalty for the crime of illegal use of uniforms or insignia punishable under article 179 of the Revised Penal Code.

Men wearing military or police uniforms purportedly identifying them as persons in authority oftentimes reportedly committed the recent rash of bank hold ups, kidnappings, extortion and other crimes. This is one of the reasons why the image and reputation of the military and police has gone very, very low that many people do not trust the military and police anymore.

While it is true that there are some misguided elements in ranks of the military and police who resort to criminal elements have now taken advantage of the easy access to military and police uniforms and insignias conveniently passing themselves off as real members of these organization. One has just to go downtown Manila where right at the sidewalks one can buy all sorts of uniforms with all insignias.

It is envisioned that the bill stop or at least greatly deter the practice of illegal use of uniforms and insignia with the hope that people's trust and respect in the military and police will not eroded due to some impersonators who care less on the damaging effect of the people's loss of trust and respect in the duly constituted authorities.

In view thereof, support and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAUL T. GONZALEZ, JR.

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AN ACT
IMPOSING A STIFFER PENALTY FOR THE CRIME OF ILLEGAL USE OF
UNIFORMS OR INSIGNIA AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 179 OF
THE REVISED PENAL CODE.

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

SECTION 1 Article 179 of the revised penal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“ART. 179 Illegal use of Uniforms Insignia. – The penalty of [arresto mayor] PRISION CORRECTIONAL IN ITS MINIMUM PERIOD shall be imposed upon any person who shall publicly and improperly make use of insignia, uniforms, or dress pertaining to an office not held by such person or to class of person of which he is not a member:

PROVIDED, THAT WHEN THE UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE UNIFORM OR ANY COLORABLE IMITATION THEREOF FACILITATED THE COMMISSION OF ANOTHER CRIME, THE PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED SHALL BE PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MINIMUM AND MEDIUM PERIODS.’

SECTION 2 This Act shall take effect fifteen days following its publication for three consecutive days in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.