

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5067



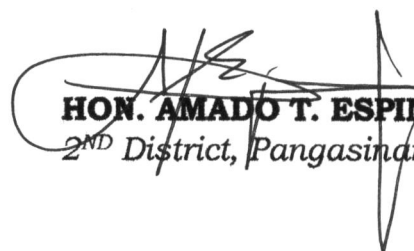
Introduced by HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recent events will show that lawless elements have been able to commit crimes with impunity by pretending to be military, police or public safety personnel, or by using the prescribed uniforms of such personnel or any other attire designed to make it appear that they are persons in authority. The present provisions of the Revised Penal Code on usurpation of authority or official functions and on illegal use of uniforms or insignia no longer serve as a deterrent, because of the relatively light penalties imposed for such offenses.

Thus there is a need to increase the penalty for usurpation of authority or official functions and for illegal use of uniforms or insignia, in order to discourage unscrupulous persons from trifling with the functions of military, police and public safety officers.

Approval of this Bill is Recommended.


HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR
2ND District, Pangasinan

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Introduced by: HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.

**AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN AND
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSE**

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

SECTION 1. – Article 177 of Act No. 3815 as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“ART. 177. Usurpation of authority or official Functions. – Any person who shall knowingly and falsely represent himself to be an officer, agent or representative of any department or agency of the Philippine Government or of any foreign government, or who, under pretense of official position, shall perform any act pertaining to any person in authority or public officer of the Philippine Government or of any foreign government, or any agency thereof, without being lawfully entitled to do so, shall suffer the penalty of prision correccional in its [minimum and medium period] MAXIMUM PERIOD.”

SECTION 2. – Article 179 of the same act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“ART. 179. Illegal use of uniforms or insignia. – The penalty of [arresto mayor] PRISION CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MEDIUM 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 a class of persons of which he is not a member.

**“THE USE OF UNIFORMS OR INSIGNIA IN THE COMMISSION
OF A FELONY OR OFFENSE, OR THE USE OF ANY ATTIRE WHICH
WOULD MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE OFFENDER IS A PERSON IN
AUTHORITY, SHALL /PSO FACTO BE CONSIDERED AN
AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE UNDER ARTICLE 14 (14) OF THIS
ACT.”**

SECTION 3. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.