

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5521

Introduced by Honorable Fernando V. Gonzalez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide stiffer penalty to persons who obstruct the apprehension and prosecution of criminal offenders, amending for the purpose Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1829, entitled "*Penalizing Obstruction of Apprehension and Prosecution of Criminal Offenders.*"

Issued by President Marcos on January 16, 1981, PD 1829 was intended to penalize any person who knowingly or willfully obstructs, impedes, frustrates or delays the apprehension and prosecution of suspected criminal offenders. The penalty imposed under any of the acts enumerated in PD 1829 is imprisonment or a fine, or both. The penalty of imprisonment ranges from 4 years, 2 months and 1 day to 6 years while the fine ranges from P1,000.00-P6,000.00.

Since the effectivity of the law in 1981, the penalties imposed under PD 1829 have been unchanged. It is hoped that by increasing the penalty from *prision correccional* in its maximum period to *reclusion temporal* in its maximum period and the fine from P50,000.00 to P200,000.00, the law will discourage some sectors of society who lend their hand in obstructing the apprehension and prosecution of criminal offenders.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO. 1829, ENTITLED, "*PENALIZING OBSTRUCTION OF APPREHENSION AND
PROSECUTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS*"

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 1829 is hereby amended to
read as follows:

"Section 1. The penalty of [*prison correctional*] *RECLUSION
TEMPORAL* in its maximum period, or a fine ranging from [1,000] FIFTY
THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) to [6,000] TWO HUNDRED
THOUSAND (P200,000.00) pesos, or both, shall be imposed upon any person
who knowingly or willfully obstructs, impedes, frustrates or delays the
apprehension of suspects and the investigation and prosecution of criminal
cases by committing any of the following acts:

- Preventing witnesses from testifying in any criminal proceeding or
from reporting the commission of any offense or the identity of any offender/s
by means of bribery, misrepresentation, deceit, intimidation, force or threats;

xxx

xxx

xxx."



SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and flourishes, positioned to the right of the word "Approved,".