

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5112



Introduced by Representative H. Harry L. Roque Jr.

**AN ACT IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR FALSE TESTIMONY IN ANY
CONGRESSIONAL HEARING UNDER ARTICLE 183 OF THE REVISED
PENAL CODE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Perjuries committed in legislative proceedings undermine the serious task of the legislature in crafting laws that address some national need.

When false testimonies are given under oath in a congressional proceeding for some malicious or questionable political end, such contemptible acts make of the second branch of government no more than a malleable, utilitarian tool.

It is true that legislative proceedings are not court procedures, but they are no less important in our Republic system of government: the legislature is an indispensable part of the three-pronged system of checks and balances. Where legislative acts are based on untrustworthy statements of perjured testimonies, they undermine the very heart of good and accountable government.

In view thereof, the expedient approval of this bill is strongly recommended.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. L. Roque Jr.", written in a cursive style.

HERMINIO HARRY L. ROQUE JR.

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3 **PENAL CODE**
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines*
6 *in Congress assembled:*
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9 **SECTION 1.** Art. 183 of the Revised Penal Code is hereby amended to
10 read as follows:
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12 **“Art. 183.** False testimony in other cases and perjury in solemn
13 affirmation. — The penalty of prision mayor in its minimum period¹ shall be
14 imposed upon any person, who knowingly makes untruthful statements,
15 shall testify under oath, or make and testify upon an affidavit, upon any
16 material matter, in any congressional proceeding. The accessory penalty of
17 perpetual disqualification from holding any public office shall likewise be
18 imposed if the person who provided the false testimony in any
19 congressional hearing did so while holding any public office at the time of
20 his testimony.

21 The penalty of arresto mayor in its maximum period to prision
22 correccional in its minimum period shall be imposed upon any person, who
23 knowingly makes untruthful statements and not being included in the
24 provisions of the next preceding articles, shall testify under oath, or make an
25 affidavit, upon any material matter before a competent person authorized to
26 administer an oath in cases in which the law so requires.

27 Any person who, in case of a solemn affirmation made in lieu of an
28 oath, shall commit any of the falsehoods mentioned in this and the three
29 preceding articles of this section, shall suffer the respective penalties provided
30 therein.
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¹Prision mayor in its minimum period is 6 years and 1 day to 8 years.

1 **SECTION 2. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not effected shall continue
3 in full force and effect.
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5 **SECTION 3. *Effectivity*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
6 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
7 general circulation.
8

9 *Approved,*