

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6188



Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bureau of Customs, for the longest time has acquired the disparaging image of a bribe-intensive department. A great deal of historical facts and anecdotal accounts have alluded to serious incidents of cash changing hands over *tara* fees on certain shipments of some importers. Some unscrupulous brokers who throw their weight around would go as far as hand out grease money to expedite procedures, fanning corruption within the bureau.

Pragmatically, the payment method in the bureau that allows for face to face transaction is culprit. Accounts from witnesses in public hearings involving the bureau tell of certain organic personnel receiving grease money, which is stashed away in their office drawers.

Absent this payment system allowing for close quarters transactions and we effectively curb corrupt practices in the bureau.

As a corollary, on-line system of payment at the bureau has to be put into effect. This will not only expedite the process. More importantly, it will serve as deterrent to corruption.

The immediate passage of this proposed measure is most earnestly sought.

WINNIE CASTELO

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE ADOPTION OF ON-LINE PAYMENT SCHEME AT THE BUREAU OF
CUSTOMS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "BOC On-line Payment Act."

SEC. 2. There shall hereby be enforced on-line payment system at the Bureau of Customs whereby individuals paying for any BOC transaction shall deposit their payments in the assigned state-run bank via on-line facilities.

SEC. 3. Any person, natural or juridical, found guilty of violating the provisions of this Act shall pay a fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) and/or imprisonment for a period of one (1) year.

SEC. 4. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,