



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



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

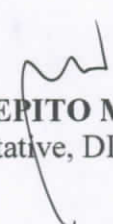
House Bill No. 8754

Introduced by **DIWA Party-list Representative Pepito M. Pico**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our public schools are some of the most important institutions in our country, the sole means of access that many Filipino children have to the education necessary for their development as people and citizens, to the education that provides opportunities for their financial stability and individual fulfillment.

As such, the State must treat theft, robbery, and destruction of public school property seriously, and create effective deterrents to such crimes. This bill, a re-filing of House Bill No. 3107 filed by former DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Villar and a counterpart of Senate Bill No. 724 of Senator Cynthia Villar, will increase the jail time and monetary penalties for felons convicted of theft, robbery and destruction of public school property.


PEPITO M. PICO
Representative, DIWA Party-list



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**AN ACT PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THEFT, ROBBERY AND
DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Public School Security Act.”

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. “School property” refers to all buildings, grounds and other property, real and personal, which belong to a public school, whether the property is acquired through public funds, loans, donations or lease.
- b. “Public School” refers to all state-owned schools, colleges and universities.

SECTION 3. *Penalty for Theft and Robbery of School Property.* – Any person convicted of the crime of theft or robbery as defined under Chapters One and Three of Title Ten of the Revised Penal Code of any school property shall be punished by the penalty next higher in degree than those respectively specified in the aforementioned articles of the Revised Penal Code: *Provided*, That the additional penalty specified herein shall no longer be made applicable if the imposable penalty is in its maximum period.

SECTION 4. *Penalty for Destruction of School Property.* – A public school building shall be considered a building of public ownership devoted to the use of public in general under Article 320 of the Revised Penal Code. Any person who shall burn a public school building shall be convicted of the crime of destructive arson as defined in Article 320 of the Revised Penal Code.

SECTION 5. *Penalty for Special Case of Malicious Mischief.* – Destruction to school property not covered by the immediately preceding Sections shall be considered a special case of malicious mischief under Chapter Nine of Title Ten of the Revised Penal Code. Any person

who shall cause damage to school property shall be punished with the penalty next higher in degree than those specified in Articles 328 and 329 of the Revised Penal Code.

SECTION 6. *Penalty for Public Officials.* – If the person convicted of the crimes referred in this Act is a public official as defined in Republic Act No. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, the additional penalty of perpetual disqualification from public office shall be imposed. Conviction of a public officer under this Act is without prejudice to criminal prosecution and/or administrative proceedings under applicable Civil Service laws and regulations, Republic Act No. 6713, and Republic Act No. 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,