Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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HOUSE BILL NO. **10451**

Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

AN ACT
DEFINING AND PENALIZING STREET DECEPTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The prevalence of street deceptive schemes in contemporary society is alarming. Across various social media platforms, countless videos capture the reprehensible actions of individuals or groups preying on unsuspecting victims, cunningly victimizing them out of their hard-earned money. One such incident occurred in February 2024, in Cagayan De Oro, where a Bangga-Higa attempt was caught on camera, drawing widespread attention.

It is imperative that we do not merely relegate these instances of deception to news recordings; rather, we must take decisive action to eradicate them.

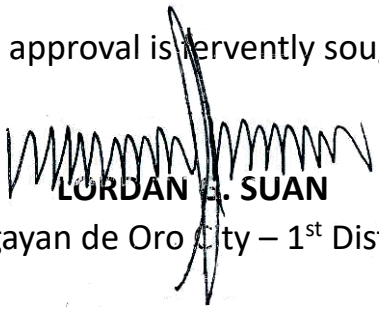
Regrettably, the primary victims of these schemes are often hardworking individuals and micro and small entrepreneurs who play a crucial role in bolstering our nation's economy.

As evidenced by numerous videos, perpetrators of these schemes exhibit a disturbing pattern: upon encountering resistance or failure, they swiftly move on to seek out new victims. While imposing penalties on such schemes is a step in the right direction, it is equally essential to implement preventive measures to safeguard potential victims from financial losses.

It is incumbent upon us, as lawmakers, to enact legislation that not only punishes perpetrators but also proactively works towards eliminating the

conditions that facilitate such deceitful practices. By doing so, we can ensure the protection and welfare of our citizens and the integrity of our economy.

In light of the preceding, this bill's approval is fervently sought.



LORDAN E. SUAN
Cagayan de Oro City – 1st District

Republic of the Philippines

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AN ACT
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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 *"Anti Street Deception Act."*

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The state has a solemn duty to protect its citizens and create an environment where legal businesses, regardless of size, can thrive. It's crucial for the state to shield its people and lawful enterprises from crimes and exploitative actions, especially those involving deception that lead to financial harm. Therefore, the state resolves to take decisive actions to prevent any attempts that threaten the welfare and prosperity of individuals and businesses.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used to this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

"Palit-Pera" refers to a fraudulent maneuver wherein an individual attempts to perplex the cashier or vendor during a transaction. It typically entails a swift exchange of currency, wherein the victim is deceived into surrendering a larger sum of money in return for a smaller amount or counterfeit bills. Such deception can be executed through sleight of hand or distraction techniques, resulting in the victim parting with a lesser sum of money than initially intended.

"Bangga-Higa" refers to a deliberate collision staged to extract money from unsuspecting victims. The perpetrator may simulate injuries and demand compensation or resort to threatening involvement of law enforcement. This scheme exploits the victim's feelings of guilt or fear of legal consequences to coerce them into providing money to resolve the situation.

SECTION 4. *Street Deception.* — Any scheme devised and conducted by an individual or group to deceive someone in order to obtain money or valuables, such as those involving the "bangga-higa" or "palit-pera" methods, shall be deemed unlawful.

SECTION 5. *Penalties.* — Any person found guilty of street deceptive schemes shall be punished as follows:

(a) *arresto mayor* in its minimum and medium periods, if the value of the property or money obtained does not exceed five thousand pesos (₱5,000.00)

(b) *prision correccional* in its minimum and medium periods if the value of the property or money obtained is more than five thousand pesos (₱5,000.00)

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette, in a newspaper of general circulation, or on a website provided for by law.

Approved,