

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1435**



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
DEFINING THE CRIME OF SUBORNATION OF PERJURY, AND AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 184 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "REVISED PENAL CODE"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, the Revised Penal Code (RPC) punishes the act of giving and offering false testimonies in judicial proceedings (Articles 180-182, 184) and the act of falsely testifying under oath in a proceeding other than a criminal or civil case and the making of a false affidavit under oath (Article 183). Republic Act No. 11594, in recognition of the great harm towards the integrity of the justice system and the deliverance of justice of the crime of perjury, further increased the penalties for perjury. However, neither the RPC nor any present law in effect explicitly criminalizes and penalizes subornation of perjury,¹ which is the crime of procuring, coercing, or inducing another person to commit perjury. The necessity for legislation that expressly criminalizes subornation of perjury is also recognized by the passage on 3rd reading of a similar bill (HB10353) authored by Representative Jaime Fresnedi in the House of Representatives under the 19th Congress.

Recognizing that subornation of perjury gravely threatens the integrity of the justice system and weakens public confidence in the impartiality and fairness of the legal process, this bill seeks to explicitly define the crime of subornation of perjury and propose appropriate penalties. Furthermore, under this bill, public officials or employees who commit subornation of perjury shall be meted with a higher penalty and be perpetually disqualified from holding a public office or employment. This is but proper in light of recent instances when those entrusted with the duty to see that justice is done are the ones coercing and using government resources to manufacture falsehood.

¹ People of the Philippines vs Pudol, G.R. No. L-45618, October 18, 1938.

Early approval of this measure is requested.


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

1 SECTION. 1. *Short title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Criminalizing the
2 Subornation of Perjury Act of 2025."

3
4 SEC. 2. *Subornation of perjury.* – Any person who procures, coerces, or
5 otherwise induces another to falsely swear or execute a statement under oath for the
6 purpose of charging or accusing another person with a crime or offense, and the
7 person suborned testifies under the circumstances, thus rendering him guilty of
8 perjury, shall be liable for subornation of perjury punishable with *prision mayor* in its
9 maximum period to *reclusion temporal* in its minimum period. *Provided, that,* if the
10 person responsible for the commission of this felony is a public officer or employee,
11 the penalty imposed shall be *reclusion temporal* in its medium period to *reclusion*
12 *perpetua*. *Provided, further, that,* the offender shall suffer a fine not to exceed One
13 Million Pesos (P 1,000,000.00) and perpetual absolute disqualification from holding
14 any appointive or elective position in the government or in any agency, entity or
15 instrumentality thereof.

16
17 SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
18 unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
19 and effect.

20
21 SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
22 presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts thereof

1 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
2 accordingly.

3
4 SEC. 5. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
6 Philippines.

Approved,