



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1565

Introduced by Representative WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.

AN ACT

**AMENDING ARTICLE 365 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Revised Penal Code, under Article 365, punishes acts committed through criminal negligence or imprudence—offenses that may not stem from malicious intent but often leave behind consequences just as devastating. These are the cases of lives lost in road crashes, of patients who never wake up from what should have been routine procedures, of workers buried under collapsed scaffolding, or families grieving over a loved one's death in what is labeled an "accident." We have seen these stories unfold too many times, and yet, the law has remained slow in catching up with the weight of these tragedies.

While justice recognizes the distinction between intentional wrongdoing and reckless disregard, the reality is that the pain endured by victims is no less real simply because the harm was unintended. A life taken by negligence is still a life lost. A family

broken by reckless acts still faces the same anguish, the same questions, and often, the same lack of closure.

Our laws must evolve to reflect not just the intent behind an act, but also its impact. Increasing the penalties for quasi-offenses is not about punishing honest mistakes—it is about drawing a firm line against inexcusable negligence that could have been prevented with due diligence. It is about compelling drivers, doctors, engineers, employers, and all professionals in high-stakes environments to act with the highest regard for human life. It is about sending a message that accountability must exist not only where there is intent to harm, but also where there is a failure to care.

To do any less is to diminish the value of the lives lost and the futures forever changed by acts of reckless indifference.

This proposed amendment seeks to restore balance, promote genuine justice, and encourage a culture where responsibility and care are the norm, not the exception. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



ATTY. WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.

Member, House of Representatives

Lone District of Binan



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

1 **SECTION 1.** Article 365 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal
2 Code, as amended by Republic Act No. 1790 and Republic Act No. 10951, is hereby
3 further amended to read as follows:

4
5 "ARTICLE 365. Imprudence and Negligence. – Any person who, by
6 reckless imprudence, shall commit any act which, had it been intentional, would
7 constitute a grave felony, shall suffer the penalty of [arresto mayor in its
8 maximum period to prisión correccional in its medium period] **PRISION**
9 **CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD TO PRISION MAYOR IN**
10 **ITS MEDIUM PERIOD**; if it would have constituted a less grave felony, the

11 penalty of [arresto mayor in its minimum and medium periods] **PRISION**
12 **CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MINIMUM AND MEDIUM PERIODS** shall be
13 imposed;

14
15 X X X
16

17 Any person who, by simple imprudence or negligence, shall commit an
18 act which would otherwise constitute a grave felony, shall suffer the penalty of
19 [arresto mayor in its medium and maximum periods] **PRISION**
20 **CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MEDIUM AND MAXIMUM PERIODS**; if it would
21 have constituted a less [serious] **GRAVE** felony, the penalty of [arresto mayor
22 in its minimum period] **PRISION CORRECCIONAL IN ITS MINIMUM**
23 **PERIOD** shall be imposed.

24
25 X X X
26

27 The provisions contained in this article shall not be applicable:

28
29 X X X
30

31 2. When, by imprudence or negligence and with violation of the
32 Automobile Law, the death of a person shall be caused, in which case the
33 defendant shall be punished by [prisión correccional in its medium and
34 maximum periods] **PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MEDIUM AND MAXIMUM**
35 **PERIODS**.

36
37 X X X"
38

39 **SEC. 2. Separability Clause.** - Should any provision or part of this Act be
40 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions and parts hereof, insofar as
41 they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

42

43 **SEC. 3. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and
44 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed
45 or modified accordingly.

46

47 **SEC. 4. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
48 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
49 circulation.

APPROVED.