

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5635



Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Peace and order are an important factor in determining the progress of the country and the well-being of its people. The criminal law and penal system of a nation help in ensuring that individuals in a state can live without fear of violence. The Revised Penal Code of the Philippines was enacted in 1930 and there is a need for its further amendment to make it more effective, particularly on the aspect of the duration of penalties or imprisonment.

People nowadays are very brazen in committing criminal acts and the increase of the duration of penalties for violations against our criminal laws can help in reducing the prevalence of crimes. Sources show that enhancing prison sentences was very effective in preventing recidivism in other jurisdictions. It is believed that increasing the length of imprisonment for violations of our criminal laws will also help in the reduction of crimes being committed in the Philippines

Our Constitution states that "*The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy*" [**Section 5, Article II, 1987 Constitution**]. The proposed enactment hereunder will encapsulate the above-stated constitutional mandate and will be very significant in ensuring that the Philippines will continue to grow and progress with a peaceful and orderly society.

For the Filipino people, approval of the bill is earnestly being sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Aniel", written over a large, loopy circular flourish.

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**"AN ACT INCREASING THE DURATION OF PENALTIES IN THE REVISED
PENAL CODE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 27 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 3815 OR REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"**

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

SECTION 1. Article 27 of Republic Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the "Revised Penal Code of the Philippines," is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Reclusion perpetua. – The penalty of reclusion perpetua shall be from twenty-five years and one day to forty years.

Reclusion temporal. – The penalty of reclusion temporal shall be from fifteen year and one day to twenty-five years.

Prision mayor and temporary disqualification – The duration of the penalties of prision mayor and temporary disqualification shall be from ten years and one day to fifteen years, except when the penalty of disqualification is imposed as an accessory penalty, in which case, its duration shall be that of the principal penalty.

Prision correccional, suspension, and destierro. – The duration of the penalties of prision correccional, suspension and destierro shall be from one year and one

day to ten years, except when suspension is imposed as an accessory penalty, in which case, its duration shall be that of the principal penalty.

Arresto mayor. – The duration of the penalty of arresto mayor shall be from six months and one day to one year.

Arresto menor. – The duration of the penalty of arresto menor shall be from forty-five days to six months.

Bond to keep the peace. – The bond to keep the peace shall be required to cover such period of time as the court may determine.”

SECTION 2. All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts hereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette and at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,