

Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

20<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7538



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Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

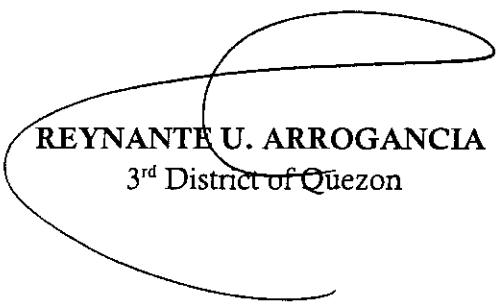
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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend the Revised Penal Code (RPC) for the separate crime of robbery in cemeteries, graveyards or burial grounds. The penalty in the proposed amendment would be one degree higher than the current penalty provided in Article 302 of the RPC.

Filipinos with their culture of deep family ties, have always honored our deceased loved ones. Hence, the disturbance through the robbery of all or part of the burial sites, including the commemorative memorabilia and other items in the burial site, is a desecration of the memory of the deceased. Furthermore, this causes immeasurable trauma for the family of the deceased. Lastly, the stealing of artifacts from ancestral graves for monetary gain impacts the historical, cultural and spiritual significance of these ancestral graves. It is imperative that grave sites like cemeteries, ossuary, tombs, mausoleums and similar burial places will remain intact, honored and respected.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
REYNANTE U. ARROGANCIA  
3<sup>rd</sup> District of Quezon

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**House of Representatives**  
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**20<sup>th</sup> Congress**  
**First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 7598

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Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING ACT NO. 3815 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL**  
**CODE PENALIZING THE ROBBERY OF BURIAL PLACES**

*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 “Anti-Grave Robbers Act”

**SEC. 2.** Article 302-A of the Revised Penal Code is hereby inserted after Article 302, which shall read as follows:

“ART. 302-A. Grave Robbery. – In cases enumerated in Article 302, when the robbery consists in the taking of all or part of a tomb, coffin, crypt, monument, gravestone, vault, mausoleum, ossuary, or all or part of a commemorative, decorative, or other cemetery-related article or committed in a cemetery, graveyard or burial ground; the culprit shall suffer the penalty next higher in degree than that prescribed in the said articles”

**SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,