



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 8984

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

“A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish.” — Proverbs 19:9

Truthfulness in sworn statements and judicial proceedings is a fundamental pillar of the justice system. The integrity of affidavits, testimonies, and criminal complaints is essential to the fair administration of justice, the protection of individual rights, and the preservation of public trust in legal institutions. When individuals deliberately make false statements under oath, particularly through fabricated criminal complaints, they do not merely commit perjury—they weaponize the legal system against innocent persons.

Under existing law, perjury is penalized; however, the current penalties may not sufficiently address the gravity of cases where false statements are used to maliciously impute serious crimes upon another person. Fabricated criminal complaints can lead to wrongful arrests, prolonged detention, reputational damage, financial loss, and severe emotional and psychological harm to the accused. In some instances, individuals may suffer consequences equivalent to those of actual offenders, despite being entirely innocent.

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen accountability by imposing a penalty commensurate to the seriousness of the false accusation. Where perjury is committed through the execution of a fabricated criminal complaint, affidavit, or sworn statement falsely imputing the commission of a crime, and where the penalty for such falsely imputed offense is higher than the existing penalty for perjury, the law shall impose a penalty equivalent to that prescribed for the offense falsely alleged.

By aligning the penalty with the gravity of the harm caused, the measure aims to deter the misuse of legal processes, uphold the sanctity of sworn declarations, and protect individuals from malicious and baseless accusations. It reinforces the principle that the justice system must not be exploited as a tool for harassment, coercion, or personal vendetta.

Ultimately, this bill affirms the State's commitment to truth, accountability, and fairness in the administration of justice. Strengthening penalties for perjury committed through fabricated criminal complaints serves not only as a deterrent but also as a safeguard against the erosion of public confidence in the legal system.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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AN ACT
AMENDING ARTICLE 183 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE REVISED PENAL CODE", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11594, PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASED PENALTY FOR PERJURY COMMITTED THROUGH FABRICATED CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

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

1
2 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - Article 183 of Republic Act No. 3815, otherwise
3 known as "The Revised Penal Code", as amended by Republic Act No. 11594, is
4 hereby further amended to read as follows:
5

6 "Article 183. False testimony in other cases and perjury in solemn
7 affirmation - The penalty of prison mayor in its minimum period shall be imposed
8 upon any person who, knowingly making untruthful statements and not being
9 included in the provisions of the next preceding articles, shall testify under oath,
10 or make an affidavit, upon any material matter before a competent person
11 authorized to administer an oath in cases in which the law so requires.
12

13 Any person who, in case of a solemn affirmation made in lieu of an oath,
14 shall commit any of the falsehoods mentioned in this and the preceding articles
15 of this section, shall suffer the respective penalties provided therein: Provided,
16 That is **IF** the person responsible for the commission of this felony is a public
17 officer or employee, the penalty shall be imposed in its maximum period:
18 Provided, finally, That the offender shall also suffer a fine not to exceed One
19 Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) and perpetual disqualification from holding any
20 appointive or elective position in the government or in any agency, entity, or
21 instrumentality thereof."
22

23 **WHEN THE PERJURY IS COMMITTED THROUGH THE EXECUTION**
24 **OF A FABRICATED CRIMINAL COMPLAINT, AFFIDAVIT, OR SWORN**

1 **STATEMENT FALSELY IMPUTING THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME UPON**
2 **ANOTHER PERSON, AND THE PENALTY PRESCRIBED BY LAW FOR THE**
3 **OFFENSE FALSELY IMPUTED IS HIGHER THAN PRISION MAYOR IN ITS**
4 **MINIMUM PERIOD, THE PENALTY TO BE IMPOSED SHALL BE**
5 **EQUIVALENT TO THAT PRESCRIBED BY LAW FOR THE OFFENSE**
6 **FALSELY IMPUTED.”**

7
8 **SEC. 2. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
9 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
10 remain in force and effect.

11
12 **SEC. 3. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
13 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
14 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

15
16 **SEC. 4. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

18
19 *Approved,*