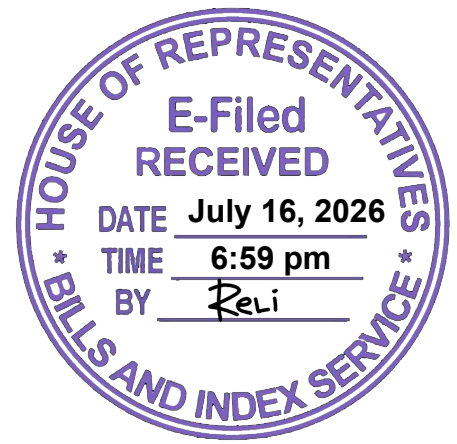


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10106**



Introduced by **Representative JEFFREY SORIANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to repeal Article 332 of Republic Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the *Revised Penal Code*, which exempts certain relatives from criminal liability for the crimes of theft, swindling, and malicious mischief committed against one another, leaving only civil liability.

Article 332 was intended to preserve family harmony by treating certain property offenses among relatives as private disputes. However, changing social realities have shown that this exemption has, in some instances, been used to evade criminal accountability for acts involving abuse of trust, fraud, and intentional deprivation of property. Victims are often left without adequate legal protection solely because the offender is a relative.

This measure removes the exemption and ensures that persons who commit theft, swindling, or malicious mischief against their relatives are held criminally liable in the same manner as offenders against any other person. In doing so, it strengthens the protection of property rights, upholds the equal application of the law, and reinforces the principle that familial relationships should never serve as a shield against criminal prosecution.

The law must protect victims of crime regardless of their relationship with the offender. This measure promotes accountability, deters abuse, and affirms that justice should be applied equally to all.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jeffrey Soriano", written over a horizontal line.

HON. JEFFREY SORIANO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **10106**

Introduced by **Representative JEFFREY SORIANO**

AN ACT
REMOVING THE EXEMPTION FROM CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR CRIMES
OF THEFT, SWINDLING, AND MALICIOUS MISCHIEF INVOLVING
PROPERTY OF RELATIVES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 332 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE REVISED PENAL
CODE", AS AMENDED

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

Section 1. Article 332 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as "*The Revised Penal Code*" is hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,