

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 428

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by Representative GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
AMENDING THE REVISED PENAL CODE PENALIZING THE ROBBERY OF
CEMETERY ARTICLES


EXPLANATORY NOTE

The desecration of our dearly departed comes in many forms. One form is grave robbery which has always been a perennial problem especially in a culture as rich as ours. In Philippine society, we have always paid our respects to our dead. More often than not, we adorn many gifts in their final resting places or provide them with sprawling mausoleums to commemorate their lives.

As we eagerly anticipated the time for remembering those who preceded us, there are unfortunate incidents where we find that the final resting place of our loved ones have been desecrated by grave robbers. The damage done goes beyond the measurable as it dishonors the deceased and causes anguish to those who survived them. This type of theft must be severely addressed.

It is the humble intent of this bill to create a separate act of robbery under the Revised Penal Code for the robbery of cemetery items or the ones committed in cemeteries, graveyards or burial grounds.

I therefore enjoin my colleagues to ensure the swift passage of this bill into law.


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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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 of 2016."

SECTION 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 articles 299 and 302, when the robbery consists in the taking of all or part of a tomb, coffin, monument, gravestone, 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."

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laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions, of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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,