

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2916**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND LEGISLATIVE SERVICE	

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Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

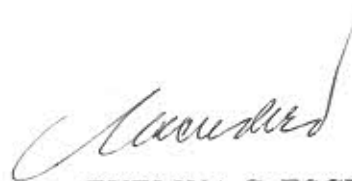
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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill amends Article 359 of the Revised Penal Code by increasing the penalties on *any person who shall perform any act not included and punished in this title, which shall cast dishonor, discredit, or contempt upon another person*. It also included intentional filing of a false complaint in court or any other agencies of government exercising quasi-judicial or administrative powers.

This is being proposed to protect an individual from another who brings false accusations at him without fear of prosecution except for a counter-suit. In such cases, such individual will have to suffer loss of integrity which may never be regained regardless of the outcome of the countersuit.

Hence, the passage of this bill is immediately sought.



**EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

Republic of the Philippines  
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17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
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HOUSE BILL NO. 2915

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Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

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**AN ACT**

**INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE CRIME OF SLANDER BY DEED AND INCLUDING THE INTENTIONAL FILING OF A FALSE COMPLAINT IN COURT OR WITH ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY EXERCISING QUASI-JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AS ONE OF ITS FORM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 359 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "REVISED PENAL CODE"**

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

**SECTION 1.** Article 359 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as "The Revised Penal Code", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Art. 359. *Slander by Deed.* - The penalty of [*arresto mayor* in its maximum] **PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MEDIUM** period to [*prision correccional* in its minimum] **ITS MAXIMUM** period or a fine [ranging from 200 to 1,000 pesos] **OF 100,000 PESOS, OR BOTH**, shall be imposed upon any person who shall perform any act not included and punished in this title, which shall cast dishonor, discredit, or contempt upon another person [.] , **INCLUDING THE INTENTIONAL FILING OF A FALSE COMPLAINT IN COURT OR WITH ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY EXERCISING QUASI-JUDICIAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS.** If said act is not of a serious nature, the penalty shall be [*arresto menor*] **PRISION MAYOR IN ITS MINIMUM PERIOD** or a fine [not exceeding 200 pesos] **OF 50,000 PESOS.**

**IF DURING THE COURSE OF ANY FORMAL INVESTIGATION OR TRIAL OF THE CASE, IT IS PROVEN THAT THE ABOVE FALSE COMPLAINT HAS BEEN OR IS BEING USED BY THE COMPLAINANT TO GAIN ADVANTAGE OR TO RECEIVE A FAVORABLE DECISION, ACTION OR RESOLUTION ON ANY MATTER, THE MAXIMUM PENALTY PROVIDED HEREIN SHALL BE IMPOSED."**

**SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid by a competent court, the remainder of this Act or any provision not otherwise affected by such declaration of invalidity shall remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and

regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

*Approved,*