Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8361

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

AN ACT
PREScribing A HIGHER PENALTY FOR PERSONS IN AUTHORITY AS
ACCESSORIES, WHO DIRECTLY CAUSE OR ORDER THE DESTRUCTION OR
CONCEALMENT OF VITAL EVIDENCE FOR HEINOUS CRIMES, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE THE PENAL CODE, ARTICLE 19

Persons in authority are charged with the maintenance of public order and the protection and security of life and property. However, there are instances when the persons in authority themselves facilitated or ordered the destruction or concealment of vital evidence used in heinous crimes.

This bill seeks to prescribe a higher penalty for persons in authority who directly caused or ordered the destruction or concealment of vital evidence for heinous crimes.

LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.
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AN ACT
PREScribing a higher penalty for persons in authority as accessories, who directly cause or order the destruction or concealment of vital evidence for heinous crimes, amending for the purpose the Penal Code, Article 19

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

SECTION 1. Article 19 of the Penal Code is hereby amended by adding another paragraph:

“WHERE THE OFFENSE IS A HEINOUS CRIME UNDER EXISTING LAWS AND IS COMMITTED BY PERSONS IN AUTHORITY, THEY SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF ONE DEGREE LOWER THAN THAT PRESCRIBED BY LAW FOR THE CONSUMMATED FELONY.”

SECTION 2. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and existing.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,