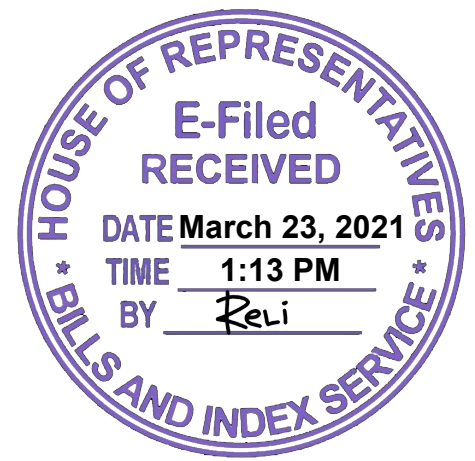


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9118



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Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**AN ACT  
AMENDING ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
PENAL CODE, ARTICLE 310, TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES IN CERTAIN  
INSTANCES OF QUALIFIED THEFT**

This bill seeks to amend Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Penal Code, Chapter 3, Article 310, by increasing the penalties for certain instances of qualified theft. The reason for the increase of penalty for certain cases of qualified theft is found in the debased form of criminality met in one who, in the midst of a great calamity, instead of lending aid to the afflicted, adds to their suffering by taking advantage of their misfortune to despoil them.

**LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**PENAL CODE, ARTICLE 310, TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES IN CERTAIN**  
**INSTANCES OF QUALIFIED THEFT**

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

SECTION 1. Article 310, Chapter 3 of Republic Act No. 3815, as amended, otherwise known as the Penal Code, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“ART. 310. Qualified Theft. – The crime of theft shall be punished by the penalties next higher by two degrees than those respectively specified in the next preceding articles, if committed by a domestic servant, or with grave abuse of confidence, or if the property stolen is a motor vehicle, mail matter or large cattle or consists of coconut taken from the premises of the plantation or fish taken from a fishpond or fishery.

THE PENALTY OF RECLUSION TEMPORAL IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD TO RECLUSION PERPETUA SHALL BE IMPOSED IF THE PROPERTY IS TAKEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE FOLLOWING OR IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER:

A) FIRE, EARTHQUAKE, TYPHOON, VOLCANIC ERUPTION, FLOODS, OR ANY OTHER CALAMITY NATURAL OR MAN-MADE;

B) CIVIL DISRUPTION OR DISTURBANCE, PUBLIC WANT OR EMERGENCY;  
AND

C) ACCIDENTS INVOLVING LAND, SEA, AIR AND TRANSPORT. THE PENALTY SHALL ALSO APPLY IF THE PROPERTY IS TAKEN FROM A VICTIM OF A CRIME COMMITTED BY ANOTHER, OR FROM PERSONS IN DISTRESS.

THE PENALTY OF RECLUSION PERPETUA SHALL BE IMPOSED IF THE OFFENDER IS A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENT OR OFFICER; A BARANGAY OFFICIAL, IF SUCH HAPPENS IN HIS JURISDICTION; A FIREMAN OF THE

BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND OF OTHER CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS EXERCISING THE SAME FUNCTIONS AND ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE ENTRUSTED WITH A DUTY TO RENDER ASSISTANCE ON THE FOREGOING OCCURRENCES.”

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,