



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4936

BY REPRESENTATIVES SOCRATES, VILLARICA, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, PALMONES
AND BONOAN-DAVID, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1496

AN ACT DECRIMINALIZING VAGRANCY, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE ARTICLE 202 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

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

1 SECTION 1. Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code is hereby amended
2 to read as follows:

3 “ART. 202. [*Vagrants and p*]Prostitutes—Penalty. —

4 [The following are vagrants:

5 1. Any person having no apparent means of
6 subsistence, who has the physical ability to work and who
7 neglects to apply himself or herself to some lawful calling;

8 2. Any person found loitering about public or
9 [semi-public buildings or places or tramping or wandering
10 about the country or the streets without visible means of
11 support;

1 3. Any idle or dissolute person who lodges in houses of
2 ill-fame; ruffians or pimps and those who habitually associate
3 with prostitutes;

4 4. Any person who, not being included in the
5 provisions of other articles of this Code, shall be found
6 loitering in any inhabited or uninhabited place belonging to
7 another without any lawful or justifiable purpose;

8 5. Prostitutes.]

9 “For the purposes of this article, women who, for
10 money or profit, habitually indulge in sexual intercourse or
11 lascivious conduct, are deemed to be prostitutes.

12 “Any person found guilty of any of the offenses covered
13 by this article shall be punished by *arresto menor* or a fine not
14 exceeding 200 pesos, and in case of recidivism, by *arresto*
15 *mayor* in its medium period to *prision correccional* in its
16 minimum period or a fine ranging from 200 to 2,000 pesos, or
17 both, in the discretion of the court.”

18 SEC. 2. *Effect on Pending Cases.* – All pending cases under the
19 provisions of Article 202 of the Revised Penal Code on vagrancy prior to its
20 amendment by this Act shall be dismissed upon effectivity of this Act.

21 SEC. 3. *Immediate Release of Convicted Persons.* – All persons
22 serving sentence for violation of the provisions of Article 202 of the Revised
23 Penal Code on vagrancy prior to its amendment by this Act shall be
24 immediately released upon the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That they are
25 not serving sentence or detained for any other offense or felony.

1 SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
2 orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or any parts thereof
3 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended
4 accordingly.

5 SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
6 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2)
7 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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