

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

**FOURTEENTH (14TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by Hon. Ronald V. Singson

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7832, otherwise known as the “Anti-Electricity and Electric Transmission Lines/Materials Pilferage Act of 1994,” was enacted as a response to the public’s clamor for the government to intensify its campaign against unscrupulous individuals from the pilferage of electricity and theft of electric power transmission lines and materials. Thieves and pilferers, however, refuse to be deterred by the penalties of the law and in fact, have become bolder in the exercise of their activities. As a result, huge power losses are incurred by the power providers, the costs of which are passed on to the consumers. This burdens the public even more, given the high cost of electricity nowadays. More importantly, pilferage often causes short-circuit, putting consumers at constant risk of fires and damage to lives and properties.

At present, the penalty for illegal use of electricity is only *prison mayor* and a fine ranging from ten thousand pesos to twenty thousand pesos, while theft of electric transmission lines and materials is punishable by reclusion temporal or a fine ranging from fifty thousand pesos to one hundred thousand pesos. The syndicates operating this illegal practice may consider the penalties too light compared to the huge profit they earn from their unlawful acts.

This bill therefore seeks to increase the penalties for the pilferage of electricity and theft of electric power transmission lines and materials. This will serve as a warning to those who commit the act that the government is committed in its promise to ensure a reliable and affordable supply of electricity.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

RONALD V. SINGSON

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

**FOURTEENTH (14TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by Hon. Ronald V. Singson

**AN ACT
INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE PILFERAGE OF
ELECTRICITY AND THEFT OF ELECTRIC POWER
TRANSMISSION LINES AND MATERIALS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7832, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE “ANTI-ELECTRICITY AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION
LINES/MATERIALS PILFERAGE ACT OF 1994”**

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

SECTION 1. Section 7 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7832 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7 Penalties. – (a) Violation of Section 2 (ILLEGAL USE OF ELECTRICITY) – The penalty of [*prision mayor*] RECLUSION TEMPORAL or a fine ranging from [Ten] ONE HUNDRED thousand [(P10,000.00)] **(P100,000.00)** to [Twenty] TWO HUNDRED thousand pesos [P20,000.00] **(P200,000.00)** or both, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed on any person found guilty of violating Section 2 hereof.

(b) Violation of Section 3 (THEFT OF ELECTRIC POWER TRANSMISSION LINES AND MATERIALS) – The penalty of reclusion [temporal] PERPETUA or a fine ranging from [Fifty] THREE HUNDRED thousand pesos (P50,000.00) (**P300,000.00**) to [One] FIVE hundred thousand pesos [(P100,000.00)] (**P500,000.00**) or both, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed on any person found guilty of violating Section 3 hereof.

xxx xxx xxx”

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,