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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3492



Introduced by **Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to penalize the malicious prank callers to government emergency hotlines to prevent unnecessary delays and hindrances in the public service delivery during emergencies.

As mandated by the government, emergency hotlines were established to provide an accessible portal for citizens who are involved in serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situations that require immediate attention and action. It is therefore only fitting that the state ensures the constant availability of the hotlines as well as the emergency responders. Prank callers prove to be hindrances to such as they intentionally fool our responders into possibly attending to them, which in turn wastes precious time and resources.

It is high time that we, as public servants, ensure that our emergency service delivery remains accessible, seamless, and responsive to our citizens. It is the responsibility of the state to put safeguards in our law that will help facilitate the success of aforementioned goals. As such, in support of the efforts of this administration, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO

44 Republic of the Philippines
45 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
46 **Quezon City**

47 **EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**
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56 **AN ACT**
57 **PENALIZING PRANK CALLERS TO EMERGENCY HOTLINES**

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59
60 **Section 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Prank Callers Act of
61 2019"

62
63 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
64 promote the general welfare or the people. Towards this end, the State aims to
65 prohibit malicious and improper use of telecommunication devices.
66

67 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:

- 68
69 a) Prank call refers to a mischievous or malicious telephone call made to trick
70 or fool someone with the intention to annoy, abuse, threaten, harass, or
71 solicit any comment, request, suggestion or sound which is obscene, lewd,
72 lascivious, filthy or indecent, or a call intending to make false requests or
73 false alarm of an emergency, knowing the report or information or alarm to
74 be false;
75 b) Emergency refers to a serious, unexpected and often dangerous situation
76 requiring immediate attention and action; and
77 c) Hotline refers to a direct telecommunication set up for a specific purpose.
78

79 **Sec. 4. Prohibition.** - Emergency hotlines established for the purpose of
80 responding to emergency situations shall, at all times, be free from receiving
81 unnecessary calls. It shall be prohibited for any individual to make prank calls to
82 any hotline at any time.
83

84 **Sec. 5. Penalties.** - Any person who violates this Act shall be penalized
85 with:
86

- 87 a) *Arresto menor* and a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for the first
88 offense;
89 b) *Arresto mayor* a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) for the second
90 offense; and
91 c) *Prision correccional* and a fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) for
92 the third and succeeding offenses.

93 Provided, That the foregoing penalties shall be imposed without prejudice to
94 other liabilities under the Revised Penal Code or any special law arising out of the
95 prohibited act herein.

96
97 **Sec. 6. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is subsequently
98 declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall
99 remain in full force and effect.

100
101 **Sec. 7. Repealing Clause.** - All acts and decrees, executive orders,
102 implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the
103 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

104
105 **Sec. 8. Effectivity** - this Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its complete
106 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines

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108
109 *Approved,*