

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5628



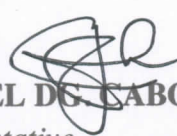
Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bomb scares posed in heavily populated places have been frequent in the recent years. This may have cause unnecessary alarm to the public which lead to disruption of regular activities, damage to property, loss in government emergency response resources, and worst, injuries or deaths to persons.

Presidential Decree No. 1727, series of 1980, entitled "Declaring as Unlawful the Malicious Dissemination of False Information or the Willful Making of any Threat Concerning Bombs, Explosives or Any Similar Device or Means of Destruction and Imposing Penalties Therefor", provides the legal basis and penalties in relation to false bomb threats. However, PD No. 1727 has become outdated and was not fully implemented to address false bomb threats. Hence, there is a need to enact a law that would impose stiffer penalties and effectively curb the spread of false information on bomb threats and.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is highly sought.


MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT

PROHIBITING THE DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION ON BOMB THREATS, OR ANY OTHER LIFE-THREATENING OR DESTRUCTIVE MATERIALS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as “Anti-False Bomb Threat Act”.

2
3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State shall ensure the protection of the public from
4 dissemination of false information on bomb threats, explosives, or nay life-threatening or
5 destructive materials which cause damaging effects to life and property.

6
7 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

- 8
9 (a) *Bomb* refers to a container filled with explosive incendiary material, smoke, gas, or
10 other destructive substance designed to explode. It can appear obvious or concealed
11 and can vary in size, shape and sophistication and may not necessarily explode such
12 as in the case of incendiary and dirty bombs. It may be referred to as Improvised
13 Explosive Device (IED) or ordnance;
14 (b) *Explosive* refers to any material that causes a sudden almost instantaneous, release of
15 gas, heat and pressure, accompanied by a loud noise when subjected to a certain
16 amount of shock pressure or temperature;
17 (c) *High density areas* refer to areas which are regularly populated with people, including
18 public spaces like public parks, airports, seaports, hotels, and malls, or where people
19 are gathered for an event;
20 (d) *Incendiary device* refers to a weapon designed to start fires or destroy sensitive
21 equipment using fire, that uses materials such as napalm, thermite, magnesium poser,
22 chlorine triflouride, or white phosphorus;
23 (e) *Life-Threatening or destructive materials* refers to any matter or substance that is
24 capable of causing death, including an explosive; incendiary device; poison gas; mine;

grenade; a rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces; a missile having an explosive; incendiary charge of more than a one- quarter ounce; any type of weapon, other than a shotgun or shotgun shell, by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; or any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into a destructive device described above and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled; and

- (f) *Sensitive areas* refer to those which are subject to high-risk upon violation of this Act because of the magnitude of the resulting consequences such as possible losses in productivity, resources, and religious value, notwithstanding the number of people present therein, including educational institutions, offices, government institutions, hospitals, churches and other places of worship.

SEC. 4. Prohibition. – Any person who, by word of mouth or through the use of the mail, electronic mail, telephone, cellular phone, fax machine, telegraph, printed materials, social media and other instrument or means of communication, makes any threat or conveys, communicates, transmits, imparts, passes on, or otherwise disseminate false information, knowing the same to be false, concerning an attempt or illegal attempt being made to kill, injure, or intimidate any individual or group or to unlawfully damage or destroy any building, vehicle, or other real or personal property, by means of explosives, incendiary devices, and other destructive forces of similar nature or characteristics, shall be penalized as prescribed in Section 5 thereof.

SEC. 5. Penalties. –

- (a) Any person who violates this Act shall be subject to imprisonment of not more than one (1) year or a fine not exceeding Fifty Thousand pesos (50,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction over the offense herein defined and penalized.
- (b) If the violation of this Act is directed at high density areas or sensitive areas and causes the evacuation of a dwelling building, place of assembly, facility, including public transportation, aircraft, ship and other common carriers, or the stoppage, cancellation or disruption of any kind of service to the public, or results to death or deaths in relation to the chaos created therein or losses in productivity and resources, the penalty shall be imprisonment of not more than five (5) years or fine not exceeding One million pesos (1,000,000.00), or both, at discretion of the court having jurisdiction over the offense herein defined and penalized.

The foregoing penalties shall be imposed without prejudice to other liabilities under the Revised Penal Code or any special law, arising out of, or on occasion of the herein prohibited act.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

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2 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – Presidential Decree No. 1727, otherwise known as “Declaring
3 as Unlawful the Malicious Dissemination of False Information of the Willful Making of Any
4 Threat Concerning Bombs, Explosives or Any Similar Device or Means of Destruction and
5 Imposing Penalties Therefor”, is hereby repealed. All other laws, executive orders,
6 proclamations, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to this Act
7 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8
9 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
10 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,