

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5252**



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Introduced by **HONORABLE STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

During the start of 2019, various institutions and public places in the Philippines were already disrupted by bomb threats. The Metro Rail Transit (MRT) 3 Management claimed that it has received a threat through email last January 3.<sup>1</sup> This is in connection to the prohibition of liquids inside the train station since the management does not want to imperil the security and welfare of its passengers and employees. On the other hand, the bombings of mosque in Zamboanga City and a cathedral in Jolo in the latter part of January added fuel to the uneasiness felt in Mindanao. After these incidents, a text message stated that a bomb was placed around Mlang Pilot Elementary School in North Cotabato circulated around the town last January 31.<sup>2</sup>

Bomb threats have also disturbed even restaurants and university. Last July 12, the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director gave an order to conduct an inquiry into the three (3) restaurants in the city that received bomb threats.<sup>3</sup> The manager of Conti's Bakeshop and Restaurant on Katipunan Avenue received the first alleged bomb scare around 8:40 in the morning, while around noontime, Dapo Restaurant's manager and Half Saints Restaurant's owner also submitted two separate complaints to the QCPD. In the Visayas area, Siliman University ordered suspension of classes on the afternoon of July 19 due to a threat from a certain person asserting to be an alumnus of the said university.<sup>4</sup>

These, and other previous bomb scares that threatened various places around the country, demonstrate the need to address the growing concern on bomb threats. Every false bomb threat which alarms an area leads to unnecessary anxiety for the people, disruption of its regular activities, economic costs from the opportunity lost for productivity due to evacuation activities, waste of law enforcement and emergency response resources as well as time spent which should have been used for more pressing public concerns, among others.

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<sup>1</sup> Rey, A. (2019, February 8). MRT3 management: 'We received a bomb threat in January'. *Rappler*. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/223003-mrt3-received-bomb-threat-january-2019>

<sup>2</sup> Bomb scare hit Davao City, Mindanao towns. (2019, January 31). *Rappler*. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/222349-bomb-scare-davao-city-north-cotabato-january-2019>

<sup>3</sup> Ramos, M. (2019, July 17). QCPD launches probe as restos report bomb threats. *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1142570/qcpd-launches-probe-as-restos-report-bomb-threats>

<sup>4</sup> Siliman University suspends classes over bomb threat. (2019, July 19). *Philippine Star*. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2019/07/19/1936087/silliman-university-suspends-classes-over-bomb-threat>

These pernicious effects are further magnified when the false threat is aimed against high population density or sensitive places like schools, airports, churches and malls, where there is regularity in the flow of activities. In schools for instance, precious instructional time is wasted only to the whim of pranksters who deliberately plant false bomb messages just to disturb the area. More importantly, it puts minors at risk to stampedes and permanent psychological trauma.

In the United States, state laws have been enacted in order to address this problem. In Michigan, making false reports on bombs and knowingly communicating the same to another person is punishable by imprisonment of up to four years and/or fine.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, Massachusetts penalizes anyone who communicates a threat causing the evacuation of high density and sensitive institutions or causes serious public inconvenience or alarm with three to twenty years imprisonment and/or fine.<sup>6</sup> Countries like Japan and Britain have also expressed their concern through the enactment of laws relating to the same acts.

In the Philippines, Presidential Decree No. 1727 on "Declaring as Unlawful the Malicious Dissemination of False Information of the Willful Making of any Threat Concerning Bombs, Explosives or any Similar Device or Means of Destruction and Imposing Penalties Therefor" was enacted in October 8, 1980. Said law states that any person who communicates, willfully makes any threat or maliciously conveying false information of an attempt to damage or destroy any property by means of explosives, incendiary devices and other destructive forces of similar nature, shall be punished with imprisonment of not more than five years or a fine of not more than forty thousand pesos (Php 40,000) or both at the discretion of the court.<sup>7</sup>

However, with the increase in incidences of false bomb threats, there is a need to enact a law that will supplement P.D. 1727, which will impose stiffer penalties when the act is done in high population density and sensitive areas, in the objective of curbing incidences of false reports which result to the detriment of the victims from losses in productivity and resources.

In the 17th Congress, Former Rep. Romero S. Quimbo filed the bill and was passed in the Third Reading. In view whereof, the expedient approval of this bill is requested.

  
**STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO**  
Representative  
2nd District, Marikina City

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<sup>5</sup>Bomb threat penalties - S.B. 645: Enrolled analysis. (n.d.). Senate Fiscal Agency. Retrieved from <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2001-2002/billanalysis/Senate/htm/2001-SFA-0645-E.htm>

<sup>6</sup>"General Laws". (n.d.). The 191st General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Retrieved from <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/GeneralLaws/PartIV/Title/Chapter269/Section14>

<sup>7</sup> Presidential Decree No. 1727. (October 8, 1980). Retrieved from <http://www.chanrobles.com/presidentialdecrees/presidentialdecreeno1727.html#XX0-7S2B06h>



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**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION ON THE  
PRESENCE OF BOMBS, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER INCENDIARY DEVICES IN HIGH  
DENSITY OR SENSITIVE PLACES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*False Bomb Threat Prohibition Act of 2019*”.

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to undertake all measures to protect all persons, especially its citizens, from being subject to the injurious effects of false information and threats on bombs and explosives, in the objective of upholding their security and safety, especially in high density and sensitive places where the risks are higher.

As used in this Act, “high density” shall refer to areas which are regularly populated with people, including but not limited to public spaces like national roads, public parks, airports, seaports, hotels and malls, or where people are gathered for an event.

“Sensitive areas” shall refer to those which are subject to high risks upon violation of this Act because of the magnitude of resulting possible losses in productivity, resources, and religious value notwithstanding the number of people present therein, including but not limited to educational institutions, offices, government institutions, and churches.

**SECTION 3. Prohibition.** – No person shall wilfully communicate or cause to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, orally, in writing, by mail, by the use of a telephone or telecommunication device including, but not limited to, cellular phones, electronic mail, internet communications and facsimile communications, through an electronic communication device or by any other means, a threat or information involving a bomb, explosive or incendiary device, when such a threat is in fact not present, thereby causing either the evacuation or serious disruption of a school, school related event, school transportation, or a dwelling, building, place of assembly, facility or public transport, or an aircraft, ship or common carrier, or wilfully communicates or causes serious public inconvenience or alarm.

**SECTION 4. Penalties.** – Any person found guilty of violating this Act or any rules and regulations issued pursuant hereto shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years or a fine of not less than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) or both.

**SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders and issuances, and rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,