

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

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session  
**2323**  
House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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DATE:	02 AUG 2016
TIME:	4:30 PM
BY:	[Signature]
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 911 National Emergency Hotline has been launched nationwide as a measure not only to combat crime and corruption, but to provide the Filipino people a fast, adequate and efficient response in emergency situations. This facility is both a call and dispatch center that will link citizens needing assistance with the emergency resources of the government, either from the police, fire fighters, medical workers or other rescue services. For convenience and easy memorization, the combination of the numbers 9-1-1 was selected as the access number to the facility.

By its very nature, this facility entails proper management of time and resources in order for it to be effective, efficient and ultimately, serve its purpose. Therefore, the responsible use of this hotline should not be compromised or abused at any time. There is no room for prank callers and practical jokers whose nonsensical mischiefs may spell the difference in saving the life of someone in dire need of real help or in preventing damage to property.

The 911 emergency hotline received a total of 2,475 calls in the first seven hours since it became active at 12:01 a.m. on August 1, 2016. However, only 75 of these were legitimate calls, while 1,119 were dropped calls and 304 were prank calls.

This bill penalizes prank calling to protect the integrity and proper operation of emergency hotlines. These should not be burdened by irresponsible and senseless acts of mischief-makers for these to be able to relay the need for emergency services to the proper responders on time. It is hoped that the stiff penalties provided under this proposed measure would discourage would-be offenders and make them think before committing such imprudent acts.

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

  
**ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**  
*Representative*  
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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**AN ACT**  
**PENALIZING PRANK CALLERS TO EMERGENCY HOTLINES**

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Anti-Prank Caller Act*”.

Sec.2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a. *Prank call* refers to a mischievous telephone call made to trick or fool someone.
- b. *Emergency* refers to a serious, unexpected and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action.
- c. *Hotline* refers to a direct telephone line set up for a specific purpose.

Sec. 3. *Prank Calling.* – Emergency hotlines established for the purpose of responding to emergency situations shall, at all times, be free from receiving unnecessary calls. It shall be prohibited for any individual to make prank calls to these hotlines at any time.

Sec. 4. *Penalties.* – Any person who violates this Act shall be penalized with:

- a. *Arresto menor* and a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for the first offense;
- b. *Arresto mayor* and a fine of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00) for the second offense;
- c. *Prision correccional* and a fine of Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) for the third offense; and

- d. *Prision mayor* and a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) for the fourth and subsequent offenses.

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

Sec. 5. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

*Approved*,