

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3971



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the wake of bombings in the cities of Manila and Davao which claimed the lives of almost 30 individuals and injured a hundred more, bomb threats, even if empty and unverified, instantly sow undue alarm and panic to citizens, create public confusion, and disrupt regular business affairs resulting in reduced productivity and wastage of the government's law enforcement emergency response resources. While hoax bomb threats are often credited to unlawful elements that intend to propagate fear among the populace, the same are also made material of jokes cracked in poor taste.

This year alone, several government offices had to suspend work due to apparent bomb threats. Last month, an unattended baggage left outside the headquarters of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Camp Crame disrupted operations while an unverified phone call about a ticking bomb suspended work at the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) in Manila. An unsigned police memorandum warning of planned bombings in major malls across the country also went viral on social media and roused paranoia. All of them proved fictitious.

This bill aims to curtail the alarming frequency of fake and malicious bomb threats that recently menaced major public and private establishments in the country by repealing the outdated Presidential Decree No. 1727 "Declaring as Unlawful the Malicious Dissemination of False Information of the Willful Making of any Threat Concerning Bombs,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" first enforced almost 40 years ago, and superseding it with a duly enacted law which expands the coverage of the current prohibition and imposes heavier penalties.

Currently, PD No. 1727 penalizes the willful dissemination of any false threat concerning an attempt or alleged attempt to use explosives, incendiary devices, and other destructive forces to kill, injure, or intimidate any individual, or damage any building, vehicle, or other real or personal property. In contrast, this bill makes it unlawful to willfully communicate or cause to be communicated any false bomb threat regardless of its ultimate aim.

This bill also proposes graver punishment of not less than six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years or 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 to convicted violators.

Bogus bomb threats undermine the State's serious efforts to preserve peace and order in society, and protect all Filipinos from needless anxiety. The confidence of the people in their law enforcement and intelligence agencies also comes under fire every time the security of their persons and properties is threatened. It is high time that a law is enacted to reduce, if not put to an end, to this form of public deception.

In consideration of the foregoing premises, the approval of this bill is respectfully sought.



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3971

Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
PENALIZING THE DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION AS TO 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 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.

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

- a) **“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; and
- b) **“Sensitive areas”** shall refer to those which are subject 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 4. *Prohibition.* – No person shall willfully communicate or cause to be communicated, either directly or indirectly, orally, in writing, by mail, by use of a telephone or telecommunication device including, but not limited to, cellular through an electronic mail, internet communication device or by any means, a threat or information involving a bomb, explosive or other incendiary device, when such 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 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 willfully communicates or causes serious public inconvenience or alarm.

SECTION 5. *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 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 6. *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 7. *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 8. *Effectivity.* – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,