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SENATE
S. No. 2667

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The recent years have seen a rapid increase in the rate of criminality in the Philippines. The threat to peace and order posed by such criminality has already reached an alarming state. It has, therefore, become imperative not only upon the government but upon the private sector to employ and make use of all available mechanisms to help curb criminality. Patrol 117 is an already existing mechanism institutionalized by Administrative Order No. 36 dated 2 May 2002 which aims to promote peace and order and public safety. Despite the numerous issuances of the government aiming the same end, however, Patrol 117 remains ineffectual.

Of the total calls received by Patrol 117 since its inception in 2003, about ninety eight percent (98%) are prank calls. In a day, an officer with a twelve-hour shift of the Patrol 117 Office receives an average of one thousand five hundred (1,500) calls. Of these calls, only three or four are legitimate calls.

This bill, therefore, aims to strengthen and reinforce Patrol 117 as an institution. It aims to address the problem posed by illegitimate or prank calls. In order to curb the rising number of illegitimate or prank calls, the bill provides for stiffer penalties in the form of a fine and or imprisonment.

Hence, this Representation humbly asks the approval of this bill.



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING "117" AS THE
NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR PUBLIC
SAFETY AND SECURITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known and cited as the "Hotline '117'
2 Act of 2011"

3
4 **SEC. 2. Institutionalization of "117" as the Nationwide Emergency**
5 **Assistance Telephone Number.** - (a) Telephone number "117" is hereby designated
6 as the nationwide emergency assistance number both for landline and wireless
7 telephone systems in the whole territory of the Philippines.

8 (b) There shall be a Hotline "117" Public Safety Answering Center (Call Center)
9 in every region, province, city, municipality and Barangay.

10 (c) The major service responders of Hotline "117" are:

- 11 1) The Philippine National Police (PNP);
- 12 2) The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP);
- 13 3) The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP);
- 14 4) The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA);
- 15 5) The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI);
- 16 6) The Emergency Assistance and Response Network (EARnet);
- 17 7) The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);
- 18 8) Other agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways
19 (DPWH), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Social
20 Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Philippine Red Cross (PRC)
21 and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines;
- 22 9) Volunteer nongovernment organizations (NGOs); and
- 23 10) Other affiliated civic sector groups and public safety volunteers.

- 1 (d) The EARnet is a network of responders composed of government and private
2 institutions NGOs, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Special Rescue
3 Unit of the BFP, in coordination with the DPWH, the DSWD, the MMDA, the
4 DOH and other government agencies and with the cooperation of private
5 hospitals, electric companies, water districts, civil rescue groups, the Boy
6 Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines and other affiliated civic sector
7 groups and public safety volunteers.
- 8 (e) The establishment of the Hotline "117" call center shall anchor on the
9 mandatory participation of the existing private communication carriers
10 operating in the locality.
- 11 (f) In areas where an emergency telephone number does not yet exist, the
12 National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) shall immediately direct the
13 concerned telephone companies to designate "117" as the nationwide
14 emergency telephone number within a reasonable period of time. Any
15 emergency telephone hotline established by any local government or state
16 agency using a number other than "117" shall be changed to "117".
- 17 (g) All existing agreements in connection with the effective operation of Hotline
18 "117" with the private sector and the NGOs prior to the enactment of this law
19 shall continue to be enforced.

20
21 **SEC. 3. Institutionalization of Hotline "117" Community-based Volunteer**
22 **Network.** - A Hotline "117" community-based volunteer network is hereby
23 institutionalized constituting the Volunteer Service Responders Network.

- 24 (a) There shall be a Hotline "117" barangay-based Volunteer Service
25 Responders Network to be organized from various components such as the
26 studentry, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines, the Sangguniang
27 Kabataan (SK) and the out-of-school youth.
- 28 (b) There shall be organized a group to advocate, train, organize, mobilize and
29 monitor (ATOMM) field level implementers of Hotline "117, headed by the
30 Chief of Police of the city/municipality as team leader with the Department of
31 the Interior and Local Government (DILG) C/M LGOO as co-team leader and
32 members from various government organizations and NGOs, such as
33 respective representatives from the office of the mayor, the municipal/liga
34 president, the municipal/city SK chairman, the Department of Education
35 (DepEd), the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of the Philippines coordinators, the
36 BFP, the BJMP and other affiliated public safety volunteers and civic sector
37 groups.

1 **SEC. 4. The Hotline "117" Commission** - The present PATROL "117"
2 Commission, as per Presidential Administrative Order No. 36 dated May 3, 2002, in
3 conjunction with Presidential Administrative Order No. 124 dated June 2, 2003, shall
4 continue to exist as the Hotline "117" Commission.

5 The Commission shall be headed by the Secretary of the Interior and Local
6 Government and the Chairman of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), as
7 chairman, and the Chairman of the Foundation for Crime Prevention, as cochairman.

8 Its members are:

9 (a) From the government sector:

- 10 (1) The PNP;
- 11 (2) The DepEd;
- 12 (3) The Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- 13 (4) The NTC; and
- 14 (5) The MMDA; and

15 (b) From the private sector:

- 16 (1) The leading telephone carrier;
- 17 (2) The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas (KBP);
- 18 (3) The Bankers Association of the Philippines;
- 19 (4) The Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and
- 20 (5) Four other members to be selected by the chairman from the private
21 sector.

22
23 **SEC.5. Functions of Hotline "117" Commission.** - (a) Prepare and
24 recommend, for the approval of the President, policies on crime prevention and public
25 safety operations of stakeholders and volunteers.

26 (b) Prepare and recommend thrusts, proposals and measures that would
27 effectively respond to the national security and development interests.

28 (c) Perform such other duties and functions as the President may direct.
29

30 **SEC.6. The Hotline "117" Development Office.** - The existing DILG Hotline
31 "117" Development Group, activated by the DILG under the PATROL "117"
32 Commission, is hereby institutionalized as the Hotline "117" Development Office to
33 implement the Hotline "117" Program which shall consist of existing uniformed
34 personnel of the interior sector and the nonuniformed plantilla personnel of the PATROL
35 "117" Commission. It shall serve as the secretariat of the Hotline "117" Commission.
36 Furthermore:

1 (a) The Streetwatch plantilla and the IACCAG plantilla of the DILG shall be
2 transferred to the Hotline "117" Development Office to constitute the Hotline
3 "117" plantilla, subject to revision;

4 (b) The said office shall be staffed with personnel, subject to existing civil service
5 rules and regulations;

6 (c) The said office shall be headed by a director with an equivalent plantilla
7 position of Director IV, to be appointed by the President, upon the
8 recommendation by the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government,
9 subject to civil service rules and regulations; and

10 (d) The said office shall have parallel organization in the regional level, to be
11 headed by a regional officer, and in the field level to monitor provincial, city,
12 municipal and barangay operations.

13
14 **SEC.7. Functions of the Hotline "117" Development Office.** - (a) Plan and
15 implement the Hotline "117" Program as a nationwide network.

16 (b) Institutionalize the ATOMM Team Network in every city and municipality.

17 (c) Institutionalize the barangay-based Volunteer Service Responders Network.

18 (d) Conduct readiness test, monitor and evaluate the response capability of all
19 systems in Hotline "117" operations.

20 (e) Undertake such other duties as the Commission may direct.

21
22 **SEC. 8. Involvement of Other Agencies of the Government.** - All government
23 agencies are stakeholders in the promotion of peace and order and public safety.
24 Hence, they shall provide the necessary support in the advocacy for and the
25 implementation of this program with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government
26 as the lead coordinator.

27
28 **SEC. 9. Participation by the Private Sector.** - The private sector and the NGOs
29 are enjoined to actively participate in whatever capacity in advocating crime prevention
30 and public safety by supporting Hotline "117".

31
32 **SEC. 10. Penalties for Illegitimate "117" Calls.** - (a) Definition of an Illegitimate
33 Caller - Whoever accesses Hotline "117" for the purpose of making a prank call, false
34 alarm, deceitful complaint or giving untrue information which could result in the
35 emergency response of any public safety agency or cause delay in answering legitimate
36 calls is an illegitimate caller and shall therefore be punished as follows:

37 (1) For the first offense, a fine of Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) shall be
38 imposed;

1 (2) For the second offense by the same offender, a fine of Ten thousand pesos
2 (P10,000.00) shall be imposed;

3 (3) For the third offense by the same offender, a fine of Twenty thousand pesos
4 (P20,000.00) and imprisonment for a period of fifteen (15) to thirty (30) days,
5 at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed; and

6 (4) For succeeding offenses committed by the same offender, a fine of Fifty
7 thousand pesos (P50,000.00) and imprisonment for a period of one month
8 and one day to six months, at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed.

9
10 (b) A call made to Hotline "117" constitutes an authorization or consent by the
11 caller for his/her distress call to be automatically recorded. In case the call turns out to
12 be illegitimate, the recording shall be used as evidence against the offender and the
13 provisions of Republic Act No. 4200, otherwise known as the "Anti-Wiretapping Act",
14 cannot be invoked by the offender.

15 (c) A telecommunications company can be compelled, through a *subpoena*
16 *duces tecum* issued by a duly authorized government agency, to disclose the name and
17 address of the owner/subscriber of the telephone line from where an illegitimate call
18 was established to have originated.

19
20 **SEC.11. Funding.** - The funding requirements needed to sustain the
21 institutionalization of Hotline "117" shall be derived from:

22 (a) The regular appropriations of the DILG;

23 (b) The imposition of a reasonable call fee to callers for the value-added service
24 of Hotline "117" based on the generally accepted practice in other countries. Funds
25 derived from this source shall strictly be used for the modernization and upgrading of
26 the program. The amount and mechanics of the collection and use of the emergency
27 call fee shall be contained in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act; and

28 (c) The proceeds from the different fines imposed and collected in the
29 enforcement of this Act,

30
31 **SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Secretary of the Interior
32 and Local Government shall formulate and issue the implementing rules and regulations
33 (IRRs) necessary for the efficient and effective implementation of the provisions of this
34 Act within one month from its effectivity. Said IRR shall be reviewed every year
35 thereafter and revised upon the recommendation by the Hotline "117" Commission for
36 the purpose of updating its efficiency and effectiveness.

37

1 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders and issuances
2 or any part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended
3 accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act shall be held
6 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full
7 force and effect.

8
9 **SEC. 15. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in any two national newspapers of general circulation.

11
12 Approved,