

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE

S.B. NO. 681

Senate
Office of the Secretary

JUL 22 P2:23

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution states that, "The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. x x x."

Presidential Decree No. 1727 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" was signed on 08 October 1980. The penalty against such activities is imprisonment of not less than five (5) years or a fine of not more than forty thousand pesos (P40,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court.

Through the years after the promulgation of PD 1727, there were still a considerable number of malicious threats to life and property. These are usually posed in places that are heavily populated such as shopping malls, train stations, airports, seaports, parks, and even schools. The dissemination of information about factual threats can save lives. However, dissemination of false information on threats to life does not only cause inconvenience to the public, but causes unnecessary costs to the community -- the normal operations of the establishment is disrupted; the working or

studying hours of the employees and students, respectively, are disturbed; the time, effort and resources of law enforcement and emergency response teams are wasted.

Hence, there is a need to enact a law that will be an effective deterrent against false information on threats to life. This proposed measure is called the "Anti-False Bomb Threat Act". Compared to the existing law, this bill disregards the intention of the person or persons who disseminate such false information. Whether he or the group does it wilfully or maliciously, or otherwise, they are liable under this proposed law. Also, it increases the penalty for violation of the same.

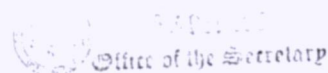
This legislative proposal was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives in the 17th Congress but remained pending in the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs.

The immediate passage of this bill is highly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Anti-False Bomb Threat*
2 *Act*".

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

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

8 (a) *Bomb* refers to a container filled with explosive, incendiary material,
9 smoke, gas, or other destructive substance, designed to explode. It can
10 appear obvious or concealed and can vary in size, shape or sophistication
11 and may not necessarily explode such as in the case of incendiary and
12 dirty bombs. It may be referred to as Improvised Explosives Device
13 (IED) or ordnance;

14 (b) *Explosive* refers to any material that causes a sudden, almost
15 instantaneous, release of gas, heat, and pressure, accompanied by a

1 loud noise when subjected to a certain amount of shock pressure, or
2 temperature;

3 (c) *High density areas* refer to areas which are regularly populated with
4 people, including public spaces like public parks, airports, seaports,
5 hotels and malls, or where people are gathered for an event;

6 (d) *Incendiary device* refers to a weapon designed to start fires or destroy
7 sensitive equipment using fire, that uses materials such as napalm,
8 thermite, magnesium poser, chlorine trifluoride, or white phosphorus;

9 (e) *Life-threatening* or *destructive material* refers to any matter or
10 substance that is capable of causing death, including an explosive;
11 incendiary device; poison gas; mine; grenade; a rocket having a
12 propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces; a missile having an
13 explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce; any type
14 of weapon, other than a shotgun or shotgun shell, by whatever name
15 known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a
16 projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which
17 has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; or
18 any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in
19 converting any device into a destructive device described above and
20 from which a destructive device may be readily assembled; and,

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

27 Sec. 4. *Prohibition.* — Any person who, by word of mouth or through the use
28 of the mail, electronic mail, telephone, cellular phone, fax machine, telegraph, printed
29 materials, social media, and other instrument or means of communication, makes any
30 threat or conveys, communicates, transmits, imparts, passes on, or otherwise
31 disseminates false information, knowing the same to be false, concerning an attempt
32 or alleged attempt being made to kill, injure, or intimidate any individual or group or

1 to unlawfully damage or destroy any building, vehicle, or other real or personal
2 property, by means of explosives, incendiary devices, and other destructive forces of
3 similar nature or characteristics, shall be penalized as prescribed in Section 5 hereof.

4 Sec. 5. *Penalties.* – (a) Any person who violates this Act shall be subject to
5 imprisonment of not more than one (1) year or a fine not exceeding Fifty thousand
6 pesos (P50,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction over the
7 offense herein defined and penalized.

8 (b) If the violation of this Act is directed at high density areas or sensitive areas
9 and causes the evacuation of a dwelling, building, place of assembly, facility, including
10 public transportation, aircraft, ship and other common carriers, or the stoppage,
11 cancellation or disruption of any kind of service to the public, or results to death or
12 deaths in relation to the chaos created herein, or losses in productivity and resources,
13 the penalty shall be imprisonment of not more than five (5) years or a fine not
14 exceeding One million pesos (P1,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court
15 having jurisdiction over the offense herein defined and penalized.

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

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

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

28 Sec. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

30
31 *Approved,*