

SENATE  
S. No. 950

'19 AUG 20 P 4 :26

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Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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**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**

*Explanatory Note*

Recently, several bomb scares have threatened various places around the country, demonstrating the need to address the growing concern on bomb threats. Every false bomb threat which causes unnecessary alarm in an area leads to unnecessary anxiety for the people, disruption of regular activities, losses in productivity and wastage of law enforcement emergency response resources.

Last 30 January 2019 a message circulating on social media regarding an alleged plot from the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) to bomb a chain of malls in the metropolis is a hoax. It is a replay of a similar hoax meant to sow alarm and panic among the citizens in Metro Manila, and done by people who are clearly enemies of the state or by irresponsible pranksters.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore business operations of the Social Security System (SSS) on Lacson St. in Bacolod City were temporarily suspended after receiving a bomb threat from an unidentified person Tuesday morning, 2 April 2019. An SSS employee

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1060517>

received a text message from an unknown sender informing her that a bomb was inside the building and it may explode anytime.<sup>2</sup>

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 issued in October 1980. It states that any person who communicates, willfully makes any threat or maliciously conveys 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 40,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court.<sup>3</sup>

This bill seeks to repeal and supersede P.D. 1727 and to impose stiffer penalties when the above acts is done in high population density and sensitive areas, in the objective of curbing incidences of false reports which resulting to losses in productivity and resources.

In view of the foregoing, swift passage of this measure is sought.

  
GRACE POE

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1799848/Bacolod/Local-News/Bomb-threat-halts-SSS-operations>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.chanrobles.com/presidentialdecrees/presidentialdecreeno1727.html#.V5BBP7h96M9>

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**THEREFOR**

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

1 Section 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “False Bomb Threat  
2 Prohibition Act”

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

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

9 a) “high density” shall refer to areas which are regularly populated with  
10 people including but not limited t public spaces like national roads, public  
11 parks, airports, seaports, hotels and malls, or where people are gathered  
12 for an event.

13 b) “Sensitive areas” shall refer to those which are subject to those which are  
14 subject to high risks upon violation of this act because of the magnitude of

1 resulting possible losses in productivity, resources, and religious value  
2 notwithstanding the number of people present therein, including but not  
3 limited to educational institutions, offices, government institutions, and  
4 churches.

5 Sec 4. *Prohibition.* – No person shall willfully communicate or cause to be  
6 communicated, either directly or indirectly, orally, in writing, by mail, by use of a  
7 telephone or telecommunication device including, but not limited to, cellular through  
8 an electronic mail, internet communication device or by any means, a threat or  
9 information involving a bomb, explosive or other incendiary device, when such threat  
10 is in fact not present, thereby causing either the evacuation or serious disruption of  
11 a school, school related event, school transportation, or a dwelling disruption of a  
12 school, school related event, school transportation, or a dwelling, building place of  
13 assembly, facility or public transport, or an aircraft, ship or common carrier, or  
14 willfully communicates or causes serious public inconvenience or alarm.

15 Sec 5. *Penalties.* – Any person found guilty of violating this Act or any rules  
16 and regulations issued pursuant hereto shall, upon conviction, be punished by  
17 imprisonment of not less than six (6) years but not more than twelve (12) years or  
18 fine of not less than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) but not more than Five  
19 Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) or both.

20 Sec 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is declared  
21 unconstitutional, other parts or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby  
22 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

23 Sec 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders and issuances  
24 and rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this act are  
25 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

28 Approved,