

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 917



Introduced by HON. IRWIN C. TIENG, HON. MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE
and HON. JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

With the rapid development of information and communication technologies, a new form of social disease has emerged known as Cyber bullying. With the use of cell phones and social networking sites, cruelty has been amplified and shifted from the hallways to the Internet, where a nasty, profanity-laced comment, complete with an embarrassing photo can be viewed by the public.

Cyber bullying attacks are especially painful because they are not easily erased from the internet and can trouble the victim for months and years. In addition to causing substantial psychological harm and emotional distress, cyber bullying can sometimes even lead to physical harm.

Existing laws in the country are not currently adequate to properly address this new and emerging problem of cyber bullying. This bill seeks to bring the country's laws up-to-date, give bullies a concrete reason to quit their online antics, and provide victims protection against this new breed of bully. Cyber bullying has become a serious problem, and we need a new law to combat it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irwin C. Tieng'. Below the signature, the name 'IRWIN C. TIENG' is printed in a small, sans-serif font.

MARIANO MICHAEL M. VELARDE

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.

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AN ACT
DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE CRIME OF CYBER-BULLYING

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 “Anti Cyber Bullying Act of 2013.”

Section 2. *Cyber Bullying When Committed.* – A person commits cyber bullying when he or she engages in social cruelty using the internet or other digital technologies by:

- (a) Repeatedly sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages.
- (b) Distributing information about the victim that is derogatory and untrue through posting it on a Web page or sending it to others through email or instant messaging.
- (c) Posting online or sending digitally altered photos of the victim to others whether the images were taken with or without consent intended to humiliate and embarrass the victim.
- (d) Breaking into an email or social networking account and using the victim’s online identity to send or post vicious or embarrassing material to or about others.
- (e) Sharing victim’s secrets or embarrassing information, or tricking him into revealing secrets or embarrassing information and forwarding it to others
- (f) Repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm or are highly intimidating, or engaging in other online activities tending to cause fear on victim’s safety.

Section 3. *Penalties.* - The penalty of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than six (6) years, or both shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of violating this Act.

Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall jointly formulate the

necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from approval of this Act, for its effective implementation.

Section 5. *Repealing Clause.* - Any laws, decrees, ordinances or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Act is hereby amended or repealed.

Section 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, other parts or provisions thereof not affected thereby shall remain and continue to be in full force and effect.

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

Approved,