



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 6342

**Introduced by REP. RODEL M. BATOCABE, REP. ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr.,
REP. CHRISTOPHER S. CO**

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR STRICTER PENALTY CERTAIN CYBERCRIME
OFFENSES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE RA 10175 OR THE 'CYBERCRIME
PREVENTION ACT OF 2012'**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide a stricter penalty of *reclusion perpetua* to death, to cybercriminals who launch cyberattacks, such as ransomware, that target government computers and disrupt government services.

The internet and online connectivity has become such an indispensable tool in our modern daily life. The great majority of today's society runs on internet connection and online connectivity. Private corporations and government offices conduct their businesses through online or digital connection.

Just this year, in May, news broke out that more than 100,000 ransomware cyberattacks targeted company and government computers in 99 countries including the Philippines. The ransomware called 'WannaCry' infected computers by locking down all the files on a computer and asks the computer's administrator to pay an equivalent of USD300 in order to unlock them.

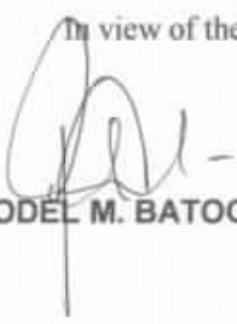
According to TrendMicro, an internet security company, a 'ransomware' is "a type of malware that prevents or limits users from accessing their system, either by locking the system's screen or by locking the users' files unless a ransom is paid. More modern ransomware families, collectively categorized as crypto-ransomware, encrypt certain file types on infected systems and forces users to pay the ransom through certain online payment methods to get a decrypt key."

Paragraph 4 (a), Section 4, of RA 10175 or the 'Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012' provides that "the intentional alteration or reckless hindering or interference with the functioning of a computer or computer network by inputting, transmitting, damaging, deleting, deteriorating, altering or suppressing computer data or program, electronic document, or electronic data message, without right or authority, including the introduction or transmission of viruses" is a criminal offense.

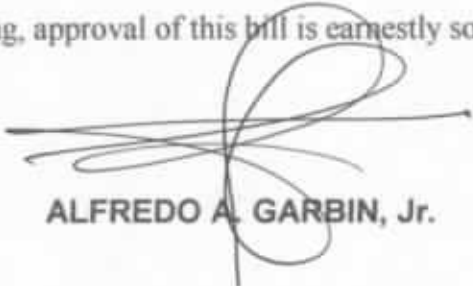
Nevertheless, Section 8 of the same Republic Act provides a penalty of *reclusion temporal* or a fine of at least Five Hundred Thousand pesos (Php500,000.00) shall be imposed for such criminal offense.

If enacted into law, this bill will provide a stricter penalty for such offense that disrupts critical government infrastructure and damages the systems that provide services to the Filipino people. This act should deter cybercriminals who intend to destabilize the government's computer infrastructure.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



RODEL M. BATOCABE



ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr.



CHRISTOPHER S. CO

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2 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All other existing laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
3 proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
4 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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6 SECTION 4. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of
7 its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

8 *Approved,*