

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10400



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA R. SALVADOR-TAMBUNTING**

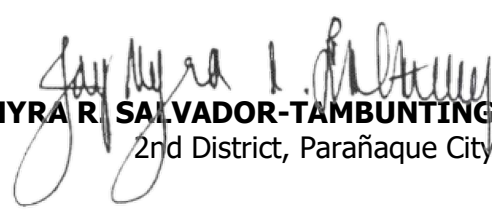
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The existing nationwide emergency hotline is “**911**” that corresponds and meets the international standards on emergency numbers. This is supported by Memorandum Order No. 07-07-206 issued by the National Telecommunications Commission and the Executive Order No. 56 that is entitled as “Institutionalizing the Emergency 911 Hotline as the Nationwide Emergency Answering Point, Replacing Patrol 117, and for other purposes.” The purpose of the said law is to strengthen operations for responding to public emergency or disasters via a direct hotline. The government is duty bound to serve and protect the people¹ and it is expected that this crisis hotline be used appropriately by the public.

This bill supports the inherent nature of having an accessible nationwide hotline by providing penalties to persons who will intentionally make mischievous and malicious calls that will spoil the government resources and make a ridicule out of it for their own personal benefit/reasons. An emergency hotline should be able always accessible, free from interruption, and seamlessly receive emergency calls in order to save lives to those needing it a crucial moment.

To uphold the reliability and integrity of this public service, this legislation is proposed to forbid and penalize prank callers on irresponsibly alarming the emergency hotline.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City’s Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


JOY MYRA R. SALVADOR-TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

¹ Section 4, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution

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AN ACT PENALIZING PRANK CALLERS TO EMERGENCY HOTLINES

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-Prank Callers Act.”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the general welfare or the people. Towards this end, the State aims to prohibit malicious and improper use of telecommunication devices.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- a) Prank call refers to a mischievous or malicious telephone call made to trick or fool someone with the intention to annoy, abuse, threaten, harass, or solicit any comment, request, suggestion or sound which is obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy or indecent, or a call intending to make false requests or false alarm of an emergency, knowing the report or information or alarm to be false;
- b) Emergency refers to a serious, unexpected and often dangerous situation requiring immediate attention and action; and
- c) Hotline refers to a direct telecommunication set up for a specific purpose.

Sec. 4. Prohibition. – Emergency hotlines established for the purpose of responding to emergency situations shall, at all times, be free from receiving unnecessary calls. It shall be prohibited for any individual to make prank calls to any hotline at any time.

Sec. 5. Penalties. – Any person who violates this Act shall be penalized with:

- a) Arresto menor and a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for the first offense;
- b) Arresto mayor and a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00) for the second offense; and
- c) Prision correccional and a fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P 20,000.00) for the third and succeeding offenses.

Provided, That the foregoing penalties shall be imposed without prejudice to other liabilities under the Revised Penal Code or any special law arising out of the prohibited act herein.

Sec. 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. – All acts and decrees, executive orders, implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,