



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2971



Introduced by: **Hon. Josephine Veronique "Jaye" Lacson-Noel and
Hon. Florencio Gabriel G. Noel**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

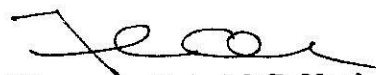
It cannot be stressed enough that nowadays, people have been repeatedly misinformed about what they consider to be data and facts through the advent of "fake news". Not even credible sources like media outlets and broadcast stations were spared of the false information spread out by paid trolls to distort truth and deliberately mislead people to think the opposite of what is actually happening.

Professor Clarissa David of the College of Mass Communication of the University of the Philippines said that communications or media scholars have recently categorized fake news into two types: misinformation and disinformation. Misinformation is false information which is unintentionally disseminated on online platforms with no propaganda while disinformation is orchestrated for political ends.

Both misinformation and disinformation must not go unpunished, especially since it poisons the minds of our citizens by distorting the truth. This Bill which seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10175, otherwise known as "Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012", by criminalizing fake news as cybercrime and providing penalties therefor.

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


Josephine Veronique "Jaye" R. Lacson-Noel


Florencio Gabriel G. Noel



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AN ACT
CRIMINALIZING THE CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF “FAKE NEWS”,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 3 AND 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10175, otherwise known as the “Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012”, is hereby amended to include:

(m) *Fake news* refers to misinformation and disinformation of stories, facts, and news which is presented as a fact, the veracity of which cannot be confirmed, with the purpose of distorting the truth and misleading its audience

SECTION 2. All succeeding subsections under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10175 shall be renumbered accordingly.

SECTION 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10175, otherwise known as the “Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012”, is hereby amended to include:

(c) Content-related Offenses:

xxx

(5) “Fake news” – The creation and dissemination of fake news as defined in Section 3 hereof, committed through a computer system or any other similar means which may be devised in the future.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,