

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5794

Introduced by HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING

**AN ACT CRIMINALIZING THE CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF FAKE NEWS
FOR PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO 10175, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Art. II, Sec. 24 of the 1987 Constitution states that "The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building."

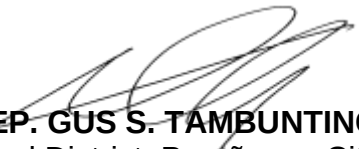
In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has come to dominate the media, both domestically and abroad. Alongside increased attention to the pandemic, has come the viral spread of COVID-19 fake news online.

Disinformation and misinformation have been prevalent in the social media age, especially during the pandemic.

The State must combat misinformation and disinformation because it recognized the vital role of communication and information in nation-building.

This bill aims to criminalize the creation and dissemination of fake news for protection from online falsehoods and manipulation. This bill aims to stop misinformation and disinformation by putting those people who spread fake news behind bars.

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.


REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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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:

"xxx

"(M) FAKE NEWS REFERS TO MISINFORMATION
AND DISINFORMATION OF STORIES, FACTS, AND NEWS
WHICH IS PRESENTED AS A FACT, THE VERACITY OF
WHICH CAN NOT BE CONFIRMED, WITH THE PURPOSE OF
DISTORTING THE TRUTH AND MISLEADING ITS
AUDIENCE."

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

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

"xxx

"(c) Content-related offenses:

XXX

"(5) FAKE NEWS - THE CREATION AND
DISSEMINATION OF FAKE NEWS AS DEFINED IN THE SECTION
3 HEREOF, COMMITTED THROUGH A COMPUTER SYSTEM
OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR MEANS WHICH MAY BE DEVISED
IN THE FUTURE."

Sec. 4. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree, or issuance,
executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, or regulation
contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
modified or amended accordingly.

Sec. 5. Separability Clause. -If any provision or provision of this Act Is
declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not
affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

Sec. 6. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date
of its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,