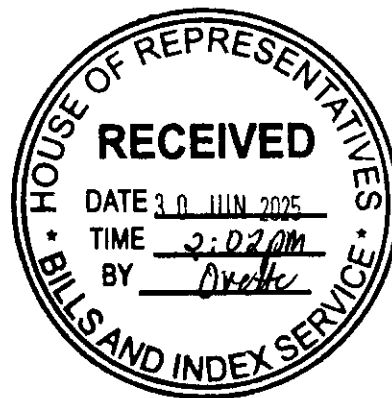




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 466



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR IMPROPER USE OF MOBILE DISASTER
ALERT SYSTEMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10639,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE FREE MOBILE DISASTER ALERTS ACT”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To safeguard lives during emergencies, Republic Act No. 10639, also known as the “Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act,” was signed into law on June 20, 2014. This law mandates that all mobile service providers deliver emergency alerts free of charge to their subscribers during natural calamities or human-induced disasters. These alerts must be timely and relevant, containing critical information such as the names and contact details of responsible agencies, locations of evacuation centers, emergency pick-up points, and relief distribution sites. Authorized entities, including the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, and other relevant institutions, are responsible for issuing these alerts at regular intervals.

However, the public’s trust in this crucial early warning system was threatened during the 2025 election season. On April 5, 2025, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) issued show-cause orders to four political candidates in Masbate Province following allegations that voters had received mobile alerts urging them to support specific candidates. These messages reportedly mimicked emergency notifications, raising serious concerns about the misuse of the alert system in violation of the Republic Act (RA) 10639 and existing election laws.

Both the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and the COMELEC denounced this act. The OCD warned that these deceptive messages pose a threat to public safety by imitating legitimate disaster alerts, which could cause confusion or lead to public apathy during real emergencies. COMELEC also highlighted the risk of desensitization among the public if such abuses continue unchecked.

Considering these events, there is an urgent need to strengthen Republic Act (RA) 10639. This proposed measure seeks to introduce stricter penalties against unauthorized or politically motivated use of the mobile alert system. This measure seeks to reinforce the credibility and integrity of emergency alert systems, which is a matter of national importance.

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



CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection (b) under Section 6 of Republic Act No. 10639,
2 otherwise known as “The Free Mobile Disaster Alerts Act”, is hereby inserted to read as
3 follows:

4 “Sec. 6. *Penalties.* – (a) Any person who gives false or misleading data
5 or information or willfully or through gross negligence, conceals or falsifies a
6 material fact, in any investigation, inquiry, study, or other proceeding held
7 pursuant to this Act, shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than two
8 (2) months but not more than six (6) months, and with a fine of not less than
9 [~~One thousand pesos (P1,000.00)~~] **TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000)** but
10 not more than [~~Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00)~~] **FIFTY THOUSAND**
11 **PESOS (P50,000)** : *Provided, however,* That if the false or misleading data or
12 information shall have been under oath, the maximum penalty for giving false
13 testimony or perjury shall be imposed.

14 **(B) ANY PERSON WHO EMPLOYS THE MOBILE DISASTER**
15 **ALERTS MECHANISMS CREATED AND ESTABLISHED UNDER**
16 **THIS ACT TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION NOT COVERED NOR**

1 RELATED TO THE PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACT,
2 INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE DISSEMINATION OF
3 ELECTION CAMPAIGN MESSAGES, ADVERTISEMENTS AND
4 OTHER PROMOTIONAL MESSAGES, SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH
5 IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN TWO (2) YEARS BUT NOT
6 MORE THAN FIVE (5) YEARS, AND WITH A FINE OF NOT LESS
7 THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) BUT NOT
8 MORE THAN ONE MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00).

9 [(b)] (C) If the offender is a corporation, the penalties may range from
10 the imposition of a fine of not less than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) but
11 not more than Ten million pesos (P10,000,000.00) and/or a suspension or
12 revocation of its legislative franchise and other permits and licenses by the NTC.
13 The maximum penalties prescribed in paragraph (a) shall also be imposed on the
14 members of its board and/or management, as applicable.

15 [(e)] (D) An alien violating this Act shall, in addition to the penalty herein
16 provided, be deported after service of sentence and shall not be permitted reentry
17 into the Philippines.

18 [(d)] (E) All monetary penalties shall directly accrue to the National
19 Treasury.

20 x x x.”

21 **SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared
22 unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

23 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
24 and other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are
25 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

26 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
27 the *Official Gazette* or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,