

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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 562

Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to penalize persons who make false information and threats on bombs, explosives, incendiary devices, and other destructive forces of similar nature characteristics.

“Bomb jokes,” as these are more commonly called, result to unnecessary panic among the populace and in places where these are directed. Some of the worst effects of such insensitive and irresponsible jokes are injuries to persons, damage to property, disruption of important official and private transactions and loss of potential income to business establishments.

The present law that is supposed to penalize these kinds of actions, Presidential Decree 1727 (PD 1727), has become obsolete and unimplementable. It provides for an arrest through an Arrest, Search and Seizure Order (ASSO) and trial by the military tribunals or military courts.

From the foregoing, it is clear that PD 1727 needs to be updated and that a new law that would cover false information and threats on bombs, explosives, incendiary devices, and other destructive forces of similar nature or characteristics must be enacted.

A similar version of this bill was previously filed by my predecessor during the last Congress. This representation refiling this proposed measure became because of the belief that it is an important piece of legislation that would benefit our country and the Filipino people.

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


JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 562

Introduced by **Rep. Jaime R. Fresnedi**

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE MALICIOUS DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION OR THE
WILLFUL MAKING OF ANY THREAT CONCERNING BOMBS, EXPLOSIVES OR ANY
SIMILAR DEVICE OR MEANS OF DESTRUCTION, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This act shall be known as the “Anti-Bomb Joke Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to undertake all measures to protect its citizens from the unnecessary yet damaging effects to life and property of false information and threats on bombs, explosives, incendiary devices and other destructive forces of similar nature or characteristics.

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

- (a) High density areas – refer to areas which are regularly populated with people including but not limited to public places like national roads, shopping malls, public parks, airports, seaports, bus terminals, train stations, hotels and inns, or any place where people are gathered for an event;
- (b) Sensitive areas – refer to those areas that are subject to high risk upon violation of this Act because of the magnitude of the consequences that may arise such as possible losses in productivity, resources, services, and religious values, notwithstanding the number of people present therein, including but not limited to government offices, educational institutions, hospitals, churches of other places of worship.

SEC. 4. *Prohibited Act.* – No person shall, by word of mouth or through the use of mail, electronic mail, telephone, cellular phone, fax machine, telegraph, printed materials, video recording, social media and other instrument or means of communication, willfully make any threat or maliciously convey, communicated, transmit, impart, pass on, or otherwise disseminate false information, knowing the same to be false, concerning an attempt or alleged attempt being made to kill, injure, or destroy any building, vehicle, or other real or personal

property, by means of explosives, incendiary devices, and other destructive forces of similar nature or characteristics.

SEC. 5. Penalties. –

- (a) Any person who violates this Act shall be punished with imprisonment of not more than five (5) years or a fine not exceeding Fifty Thousand Pesos (50,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction over the offense herein defined and penalized.
- (b) If the violation of this Act is directed at high density areas or sensitive areas and causes the evacuation of a dwelling, building, place of assembly, facility, including public transportation, aircraft, ship and other common carriers, stoppage or cancellation of any kind of service to the public, the penalty shall be imprisonment of not more than ten (10) years or a fine not exceeding One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) or both at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction over the offense herein defined and penalized.

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

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected there shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. – All Acts, Presidential Decrees, Executive Orders and Administrative Orders, Rules and Regulations and other such issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,