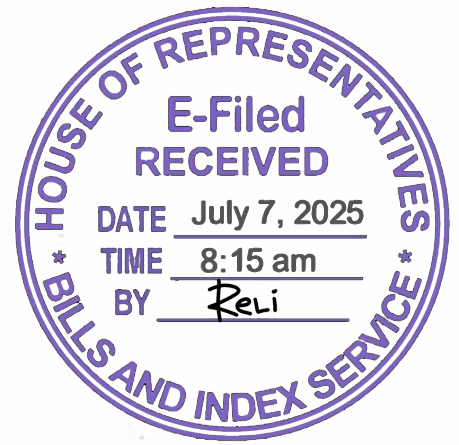


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1333



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10175, or the “Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012,” to address the growing use of information and communications technology (ICT) in large-scale criminal activities such as phishing, online fraud, and data breaches.

In 2024, the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) reported receiving 10,004 complaints – three times the number recorded in the previous year.¹ This supports the notion that cybercriminals now exploit the reach and speed of the internet to commit offenses affecting thousands of victims simultaneously, with serious consequences for public trust and the national economy.

To address this, the bill classifies certain ICT-enabled offenses, particularly those involving mass phishing schemes, as acts of economic sabotage and heinous crimes, deserving the most severe penalties under the law. It also introduces amendments to ensure that the law remains responsive to the evolving threat landscape and continues to protect the integrity of digital infrastructure, as well as to preserve public confidence in the digital economy.

Hence, the approval of the proposed measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Romulo".

ROMAN T. ROMULO
Lone District, Pasig City

¹ Rainier Allan Ronda, ‘Cybercrime Complaints Triple in 2024 – CICC’, *The Philippine Star* (online), 3 March 2025, <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/03/03/2425442/cybercrime-complaints-triple-2024-cicc> (accessed 30 June 2025).

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1333

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE CYBERCRIME PREVENTION MEASURES, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OR THE “CYBERCRIME
PREVENTION ACT OF 2012”

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10175 is hereby amended as
2 follows:

3 “SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes the vital role of
4 information and communications industries such as content production,
5 telecommunications, broadcasting electronic commerce, and data
6 processing, in the nation’s overall social and economic development.
7 The State also recognizes the importance of providing an environment
8 conducive to the development, acceleration, and rational application and
9 exploitation of information and communications technology (ICT) to
10 attain free, easy, and intelligible access to exchange and/or delivery of
11 information; and the need to protect and safeguard the integrity of
12 computer, computer and communications systems, networks, and
13 databases, and the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of
14 information and data stored therein, from all forms of misuse, abuse, and
15 illegal access by making punishable under the law such conduct or
16 conducts. THE STATE LIKEWISE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE
17 CAPACITY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
18 TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED AS A MEANS OF PERPETRATING
19 CRIME IN BULK AND AT A SCALE PREVIOUSLY UNHEARD OF, HAS
20 BEEN EXPLOITED BY CRIMINALS AND CRIMINAL SYNDICATES IN
21 PERPETRATING FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES TO UNDERMINE THE

1 TRUST OF THE PUBLIC IN THESE NEW TECHNOLOGIES AN THE
2 EMERGING NEW ECONOMY IT SUPPORTS. DUE TO THESE
3 DELETERIOUS EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMY, THE STATE
4 DECLARES THAT THE COMMISSION OF CERTAIN CRIMES UNDER
5 THIS ACT USING INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
6 TECHNOLOGY IS A FORM OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE AND A
7 HEINOUS CRIME WHICH DESERVES THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF
8 PUNISHMENT UNDER THE LAW. In this light, the State shall adopt
9 sufficient powers to effectively prevent and combat such offenses by
10 facilitating their detection, investigation, and prosecution at both the
11 domestic and international levels, and by providing arrangements for
12 fast and reliable international cooperation.”

13 **SEC. 2.** Section 3 of the same Act is hereby amended to insert certain terms
14 as follows and renumbered accordingly:

15 “SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
16 terms are hereby defined as follows:

17 xxx

18 “(C) *BULK EMAIL MASS MAILER* REFERS TO A SERVICE OR
19 SOFTWARE USED TO SEND ELECTRONIC MAIL EN MASSE.

20 xxx

21 “(O) *PHISHING* REFERS TO A SOCIAL ENGINEERING SCHEME TO
22 OBTAIN OR ANY ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SENSITIVE INFORMATION
23 SUCH AS USERNAMES, PASSWORDS, BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS,
24 CREDIT CARD, DEBIT CARD, AND E-WALLET INFORMATION,
25 AMONG OTHER ELECTRONIC CREDENTIALS, BY DISGUIISING AS
26 A TRUSTWORTHY ENTITY IN AN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION
27 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ILLEGALLY ACCESSING A VICTIM’S
28 ONLINE ACCOUNT FOR FINANCIAL GAIN.

29 “[n)] (P) *Service provider* refers to:

30 “(1) xxx; [and]

31 “(2) xxx[.]; AND

32 “(3) ANY ENTITY CONTRACTED BY ANOTHER ENTITY, WHETHER
33 DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN, TO PROCESS ANY DATA OR
34 INFORMATION OF ANY PERSON WHEREVER LOCATED,
35 INCLUDING ENTITY PROVIDING BUSINESS PROCESS
36 OUTSOURCING AND SIMILAR SERVICES.”

1 “[(o)] (Q) *Subscriber’s information* refers to any information contained in
2 the form of computer data or any other form that is held OR ACCESSED
3 by a service provider, relating to subscribers, WHETHER LOCATED IN
4 THE PHILIPPINES OR NOT, of its services other than traffic or content
5 data and by which identity can be established:

6 xxx

7 “(R) *IDENTIFYING INFORMATION* REFERS TO ANY NAME OR
8 NUMBER THAT MAY BE USED ALONE OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH
9 ANY OTHER INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY ANY SPECIFIC
10 INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

11 “(1) NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, DRIVER’S LICENSE NUMBER,
12 PASSPORT NUMBER, TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER OR OTHER
13 GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

14 “(2) UNIQUE BIOMETRIC DATA, SUCH AS FINGERPRINT OR
15 OTHER UNIQUE PHYSICAL REPRESENTATION;

16 “(3) UNIQUE ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, ADDRESS,
17 OR ROUTING CODE; AND

18 “(4) TELECOMMUNICATION IDENTIFYING INFORMATION OR
19 ACCESS DEVICE.

20 “[(p)] (S) *Traffic data or non-content data* refers to any computer data
21 other than the content of the communication, including, but not limited
22 to, the communication’s origin, destination, route, time, date, size,
23 duration, or type of underlying service.”

24 **SEC. 3.** Section 4 of the same Act is amended as follows:

25 “SEC. 4. *Cybercrime Offenses.* – The following acts constitute the offense of
26 cybercrime punishable under this Act:

27 “(a) Offenses against the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of computer
28 data and systems:

29 “(1) xxx

30 “(2) xxx

31 “(3) *Data Interference.* – The intentional or reckless alteration, INPUTTING,
32 damaging, deletion or deterioration of computer data, electronic document, or
33 electronic data message, without right, including the introduction or
34 transmission of viruses, REGARDLESS OF WHO CONTROLS OR OWNS
35 THE COMPUTER DATA.

1 "xxx

2 "(b) Computer-related Offenses:

3 "xxx

4 "(2) Computer-related Fraud. – The unauthorized input, alteration, or deletion
5 of computer data or program or interference in the functioning of a computer
6 system, causing ANY FORM OF damage, WHETHER DIRECT, INDIRECT,
7 LEGAL OR CONTRACTUAL, thereby with fraudulent intent: Provided, That if
8 no damage has been caused, the penalty imposable shall be one (1) degree
9 lower.

10 "xxx

11 "(4) ECONOMIC SABOTAGE. – ANY OFFENSE PERPETRATED UNDER
12 THIS SUBSECTION USING A BULK EMAIL MASS MAILER OR ANY
13 SERVICE, SOFTWARE, OR OTHER METHOD OF DELIVERY CALCULATED
14 TO UTILIZE THE MASSIVE REACH OF THE INTERNET TO REACH THE
15 MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VICTIMS, PURSUANT TO A "PHISHING" OR
16 OTHER SIMILAR FRAUDULENT SCHEME, SHALL BE PUNISHED AS AN
17 ACT OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE."

18 **SEC. 4.** Section 5 of the same Act is amended as follows:

19 "SEC. 5. *Other Offenses.* – The following acts shall also constitute an offense:

20 "(a) Aiding or abetting in the Commission of Cybercrime. – Any person who
21 willfully abets or aids in the commission of, OR INFLUENCES OR DECEIVES
22 ANOTHER TO COMMIT any of the offenses enumerated in this Act shall be
23 held liable.

24 "(b) xxx

25 "(C) FAILURE TO SURRENDER COMPUTER DATA OR COMPUTER
26 SYSTEM. – ANY PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY AND UNLAWFULLY
27 POSSESSES OR FAILS TO SURRENDER ANY COMPUTER SYSTEM THAT
28 CONTAINS COMPUTER DATA THAT IS CONSIDERED PERSONAL
29 INFORMATION, SENSITIVE PERSONAL INFORMATION, OR PRIVILEGED
30 INFORMATION UNDER THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, OR THE "DATA
31 PRIVACY ACT OF 2012" SHALL BE HELD LIABLE.

32 "(D) SOLICITATION TO COMMIT CYBERCRIME. – ANY PERSON WHO
33 WILLFULLY PROPOSES, SOLICITS, OR INDUCES ANOTHER PERSON TO
34 COMMIT ANY OF THE OFFENSES UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE HELD
35 LIABLE."

1 **SEC. 5.** Section 6 of the same Act is amended to insert a second paragraph as
2 follows:

3 “SEC. 6. All crimes defined and penalized by the Reised Penal Code, as
4 amended, and special laws, if committed by, through and with the use of
5 information and communications technologies shall e covered by the relevant
6 provisions of this Act: Provided, That the penalty to be imposed shall be one
7 (1) degree higher than that provided for by the Revised Penal Code, as
8 amended, and special laws, as the case may be.

9 “THE PROSECUTION OF THE OFFENSES UNDER THIS ACT MAY BE
10 INITIATED BY ANY OFFENDED PARTY OR ANY AFFECTED SERVICE
11 PROVIDER.”

12 **SEC. 6.** Section 8 of the same Act is amended to insert a fourth paragraph as
13 follows:

14 “SEC. 8. *Penalties.* – Any person found guilty of any of the punishable acts
15 enumerated in Sections 4(a) and 4(b) of this Act shall be punished with
16 imprisonment of *prision mayor* or a fine of at least Two hundred thousand pesos
17 (Php200,000.00) up to a maximum amount commensurate to the damage
18 incurred or both.

19 “Any person found guilty of the punishable act under Section 4(a)(5) shall be
20 punished with imprisonment of *prision mayor* or a fine of not more than Five
21 hundred thousand pesos (Php500,000.00) or both.

22 “If punishable acts in Section 4 (a) are committed against critical infrastructure,
23 the penalty of *reclusion temporal* or a fine of at least Five hundred thousand
24 pesos (Php500,000.00) up to maximum amount commensurate to the damage
25 incurred or both shall be imposed.

26 “ANY PERSON FOUND GUILTY OF AN OFFENSE THAT CONSTITUTES
27 ECONOMIC SABOTAGE UNDER SECTION 4(B)(4) SHALL BE PUNISHED
28 WITH LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN ONE
29 MILLION PESOS (PHP1,000,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIVE MILLION
30 PESOS (PHP5,000,000.00).

31 “xxx”

32 **SEC. 7.** All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts
33 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or amended
34 accordingly.

35 **SEC. 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
36 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

37 Approved,