

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 3023

Introduced by **Representative Binky April M. Tupas**

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF ESPIONAGE, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NUMBER 616 OR THE ANTI-ESPIONAGE
LAW AND ARTICLE 117 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AND PROVIDING
HIGHER PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines primary measures on espionage were enacted into law as far back as the 1930s and 1940s, namely, Commonwealth Act (CA) No. 616 or "An Act to Punish Espionage and Other Offenses Against the National Security" signed in June 1941, and the Revised Penal Code which took effect in 1932, particularly Article 117 thereof.

Under both laws, only information, materials, and other concerns pertaining to "national defense unlawfully obtained and/or disclosed to the injury of the Philippines or to the advantage of any foreign nation constitute espionage with the penalty of imprisonment ranging from ten to thirty years, and a fine of Two Thousand to Thirty Thousand pesos. In other territories, the crime of espionage covers not only information on or matter of "national defense" but "national security", "state secret, and "intelligence" as well.

In light of the evolving nature of security threats and the increasing sophistication of espionage tactics, there is a pressing need to update and strengthen existing laws to effectively safeguard government information. Classified materials, in particular, are at risk of unauthorized access, theft, wrongful destruction or alteration, misappropriation, and conversion by both domestic and foreign entities, including governments and their agents or instrumentalities. Thus, it is imperative to update the provisions of the said laws and increase the penalties thereof to protect government information, including classified matters relevant to the preservation and protection of national security.

The proposed bill seeks to address these concerns by amending and augmenting current legal provisions to provide comprehensive protection against espionage and related offenses. By enhancing penalties and updating definitions to align with contemporary security challenges, the legislation aims to bolster the Philippines' ability to preserve and protect its national security interests. Thus, the expeditious passage of this bill is paramount to ensuring the nation's security and sovereignty in the face of evolving threats.


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

ARTICLE I
TITLE AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *SHORT TITLE.* - THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE "**AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF ESPIONAGE**".

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.*

A. "*NATIONAL SECURITY*" SHALL INCLUDE HUMAN AND POLITICAL
SECURITY, HEALTH SECURITY, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SECURITY,
FOOD AND WATER SECURITY, MILITARY AND BORDER SECURITY, SOCIO-
CULTURAL SECURITY, ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER SECURITY, ENERGY
SECURITY, MARITIME AND AIRSPACE SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY, INFORMATIONAL AND CYBER SECURITY, TRANSPORTATION
AND PORT SECURITY.¹

B. "*CLASSIFIED MATTER AND/OR INFORMATION*" INCLUDES EVERYTHING,
REGARDLESS OF ITS PHYSICAL CHARACTER OR ELECTRONIC FORM,
CLASSIFIED AS "**TOP SECRET**", "**SECRET**", "**CONFIDENTIAL**" AND
"**RESTRICTED**".

¹ National Security Policy 2017-2022

DOCUMENTS, EQUIPMENT, PROJECTS, BOOKS, REPORTS, ARTICLES, NOTES, LETTERS, WRITINGS, DRAWINGS, SKETCHES, PLANS, MAPS, PHOTOGRAPHS, PHOTOGRAPHIC NEGATIVE, BLUE PRINTS, RECORDINGS, MACHINERY, MODELS, APPARATUS, DEVICES, TOOLS, APPLIANCE, AND ALL OTHER PRODUCTS OR SUBSTANCES FALL WITHIN THE GENERAL TERM "MATTER". INFORMATION WHICH IS TRANSMITTED ORALLY IS CONSIDERED AS "MATTER" FOR PURPOSES OF SECURITY.

c. "Aircraft" as used in this Act means any contrivance known or hereafter invented, used, or designed for navigation or flight in the air. The expression "post, camp, or station" as used in this Act shall be interpreted to include naval vessels, military and naval aircraft, and any separate military, naval or air command.

d. "War or national defense material" as used herein shall include arms, armament, ammunition, livestock, stores of clothing, food, foodstuffs, or fuel; and shall also include supplies, munitions, and all other articles of whatever description, and any part or ingredient thereof, intended for, adapted to, or suitable for the use of the Philippines ~~or the United States~~, or any associate nation, in connection with the conduct of war or national defense.

e. "War or national defense premises," as used herein, shall include all buildings, grounds, mines, or other places wherein such war or national defense material is being produced, manufactured, repaired, stored, mined, extracted, distributed, loaded, unloaded, or transported, together with all machinery and appliances therein contained; and all ports, arsenals, navy yards, prisons, camps, or other military, naval, or air stations of the Philippines ~~[or the United States]~~ or any associate nation.

f. "War or national defense utilities," as used herein, shall include all railroads, railways, electric lines, roads of whatever description, railroad or railway fixture, canal, lock, dam, wharf, pier, dock, bridge, building, structure, engine, machine, mechanical contrivance, car, vehicle, boat, or aircraft, or any other means of transportation whatsoever, whereon or whereby such war or national defense material or any troops of the Philippines ~~[or of the United States]~~, or of any associate nation, are being or may be transported either within the limits of the Philippines ~~[or the United States]~~ or upon the high seas; and all dams, reservoirs, aqueducts, water and gas mains, oil or gasoline stations, pipes, structures, and buildings, whereby or in connection with which water, or gas, or oil, or gasoline, or other fluid is being furnished, or may be furnished, to any war or national defense premises or to the military, naval, or air

forces of the Philippines ~~[or the United States]~~ or any associate nation, and all electric light and power, steam or pneumatic power, telephone, and telegraph plants, poles, wires, and fixtures and wireless stations, and the buildings connected with the maintenance and operation thereof used to supply water, light, heat, gas, oil, gasoline, fluid, power, or facilities of communication to any war or national defense premises or to the military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines ~~[or of the United States,]~~ or any associate nation.

g. "Associate nation," as used in this chapter, shall be deemed to mean any nation at war with any nation with which the Philippines ~~[or the United States]~~ is at war.

h. "Foreign government," as used in this Act, shall be deemed to include any government, faction, or body of insurgents within a country with which the Philippines ~~[or United States]~~ is at peace, which government, faction, or body of insurgents may or may not have been recognized by the Philippines ~~[or the United States]~~ as a government.

ARTICLE II

PUNISHABLE ACTS AND PENAL PROVISIONS

SEC 1. Unlawfully obtaining or permitting to be obtained **CLASSIFIED MATTER AND/OR INFORMATION AFFECTING NATIONAL DEFENSE OR NATIONAL SECURITY.** –

(a) Whoever, for the purpose of obtaining or permitting to be obtained **CLASSIFIED MATTER OR CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AFFECTING NATIONAL DEFENSE OR NATIONAL SECURITY**, with intent or reason to believe that the **CLASSIFIED MATTER OR** information to be obtained is to be used to the injury of the Philippines ~~[or of the United States,]~~ or to the advantage of any foreign nation, **OR ENEMY OF THE STATE, WHETHER DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN**, ~~[goes upon, enters, flies over, or otherwise]~~ obtains **CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION BY ANY MEANS CONCERNING NATIONAL SECURITY OR** national defense **SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN ONE MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00), OR BOTH.** ~~[any vessel, aircraft, work of defense, navy yard, naval station, submarine base, coaling station, fort, battery, torpedo, station, dockyard, canal, railroad, arsenal, camp, factory, mine, telegraph, telephone, wireless, or signal station, building, office, or other place or connected with the national defense or, owned or constructed, or in progress of construction by the~~

~~Philippines or by the United States under the control of the Philippines, or any of its officers or agents, or within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Philippines, or any place in which any vessel, aircraft, arms, munitions, or other materials or instruments for the use in time of war are being made, prepared, repaired, or stored, under any contract or agreement with the Philippines, or with any person on behalf of the Philippines, of any prohibited place within the meaning of section six hereof.]~~

(b) Whoever, for the purpose aforesaid, and with like intent or reason to believe, **INTERCEPTS, RECORDS**, copies, takes, makes, or obtains, or attempts, or induces or aids another to **INTERCEPT, RECORD**, copy, take, make, or obtain, **ANY CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION AFFECTING NATIONAL DEFENSE OR NATIONAL SECURITY SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF 12 YEARS AND ONE DAY TO 20 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH** [~~sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, document, writing, of note of anything connected with national defense.~~]

(c) Whoever, for the purpose aforesaid, receives or obtains or agrees or attempts or induces or aids another to receive or obtain from any person, or from any source whatever, **CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO**, document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, or note, **OF ANYTHING CONNECTED WITH** national defense **OR NATIONAL SECURITY**, knowing or having reason to believe, at the time he receives or obtains, or agrees or attempts or induces or aids another to receive or obtain it, that it has been or will be obtained, taken, made, or disposed of by any person contrary to the provisions of this Act shall **SUFFER THE PENALTY OF 12 YEARS AND ONE DAY TO 20 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH.**

(d) Whoever, lawfully or unlawfully having possession of, access to, control over, or being entrusted with any **CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY OR NATIONAL DEFENSE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO**, document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance, or note willfully communicates or transmits or attempts to communicate or transmit the same to any person not entitled to receive it, or willfully retains the same and fails to deliver it on demand to the officer or employee of the Philippines entitled to receive it **SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF 12 YEARS AND ONE DAY TO 20 YEARS OF**

IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH.

(e) Whoever, being entrusted with or having lawful possession or control of any **CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO** document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, note or information, **WHETHER IT BE IN PRINTED COPY OR ELECTRONIC FORM RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY OR DEFENSE**, through gross negligence permits the same to be removed from its proper place of custody or delivered to anyone in violation of this trust or to be lost, stolen, abstracted, or destroyed, **SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF 12 YEARS AND ONE DAY TO 20 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH.**

SEC 2. Unlawfully disclosing **CLASSIFIED MATTER** or information affecting **NATIONAL SECURITY OR** national defense. –

(a) Whoever, with the intent or reason to believe that it is to be used to the injury of the Philippines or ~~[of the United States]~~ or to the advantage of a foreign nation **OR ENEMY OF THE STATE, WHETHER DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN**, communicates, delivers, or transmits, or attempts to, or aids or induces another to, communicate, deliver, or transmit to any foreign government or any faction or party or military or naval force within a foreign country, whether recognized or unrecognized by the Philippines, or to any representative, officer, agent, employee, subject, or citizen thereof, **OR TO ANY ENEMY OF THE STATE**, either directly or indirectly, any **CLASSIFIED MATTER OR INFORMATION** ~~[document, writing, code book, signal book, sketch, photograph, photographic negative, blue print, plan, map, model, instrument, appliance,]~~ **RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND/OR national defense, SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY OF 12 YEARS AND ONE DAY TO 20 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH.**

(b) Whoever, in time of war **OR DURING THE DECLARATION OF MARTIAL LAW**, with intent that the same shall be communicated to the enemy, shall collect, record, publish, or communicate, or attempt to elicit **ANY CLASSIFIED MATTER OR** information with respect to **NATIONAL SECURITY OR** national defense, **INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO** the movement, number, description, condition, or disposition of any of the ~~[armed forces]~~ **PHILIPPINE FORCES OR ITS ALLIED** ships, aircraft, or

war materials of the Philippines, ~~[or of the United States,]~~ or with respect to the plans or conduct any government forces of the Philippines and its allied forces, including but not limited to, or supposed plans or conduct of any military, naval, or air operations, or with respect to any works or measures undertaken for or connected with, or intended for the fortification or defense **AND SECURITY** of any place, or any other information relating to the public defense or **NATIONAL SECURITY** which might be useful to the enemy, **SHALL BE PUNISHED BY LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TWO MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00).**

SEC 3. *Disloyal acts or works in time of peace.* – It shall be unlawful for any person, with intent to interfere with, impair, or influence the loyalty, morale, or discipline of ~~[the military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or]~~ **ANY MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE FUNCTION IS NECESSARY TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY OR** national defense ~~[of the United States]~~: (a) to advise, counsel, urge, **INCITE**, or in any manner cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty **BY ANY MEMBER OF THE AFOREMENTIONED** ~~[of the military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or of the United States; of]~~ (b) to distribute any written or printed matter which advises, counsels, **INCITES, OR** urges insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by **ANY MEMBER OF THE AFOREMENTIONED** ~~[of the military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or of the United States.]~~ The violators of this section **SHALL BE IMPOSED WITH THE PENALTY OF 10 YEARS AND ONE DAY TO 12 YEARS OF IMPRISONMENT OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH.**

SEC 4. *Disloyal acts or words in time of war.* – Whoever, when the Philippines is at war, shall willfully make or convey false reports or false statements with the intent, to interfere with the operation or success of **THE GOVERNMENT RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY OR DEFENSE** ~~[military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or of the United States]~~ or to promote the success of its enemies shall willfully cause or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty **OF ANY MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE FUNCTION IS NECESSARY TO THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND/OR** national defense, ~~[in the military, naval, or air forces of the Philippines or of the United States,]~~ or shall willfully obstruct the recruiting or enlistment service of the Philippines ~~[or of the United States]~~ to the injury of the service of the Philippines ~~[or of the United States,]~~ shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than thirty years and **A FINE**

OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH

SEC 5. *Conspiracy to violate preceding sections.* – If two or more persons conspire to violate the provisions of ~~[sections one, two, three, or four]~~ **SECTIONS 1 TO 4** of this Act, and one or more of such persons does not act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each of the parties to such conspiracy shall be punished as in said sections provided in the case of the doing of the act the accomplishment of which is the object of such conspiracy.

SEC 6. *Harboring or concealing violators of the law.* – Whoever harbors or conceals any person who he knows, or has reasonable ground to believe or suspect, has committed, or is about to commit, an offense under this Act, shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than ten years and may, in addition thereto, be fined ~~[not more than ten]~~ **NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00).**

SEC 7. *Designation of prohibited places by proclamation.* – The President of the Philippines in time of war or in case of national emergency may, by proclamation, designate any place ~~[other than those set forth in subsection (a) of section one hereof in which anything for the use of]~~ **USED BY the GOVERNMENT ESPECIALLY** army, navy, air, **OR POLICE FORCES OR** are being prepared or constructed or ~~[stored]~~ **USED AS STORAGE** as a prohibited place for the purpose of this Act: Provided, that ~~[he]~~ **THE PRESIDENT** shall determine that information with respect thereto would be prejudicial to the national defense or **NATIONAL SECURITY.**

SEC 8. *Photographing, etc., defensive installations regulated; penalties.* – Whenever, in the interests of national defense or **NATIONAL SECURITY**, the President of the Philippines **OR HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE** shall define certain vital **GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS** ~~[military, naval, or air installations or equipment as]~~ requiring protection against the general dissemination of information relative thereto. It shall be unlawful to make any photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map, or graphical representation of such vital ~~[military, naval, and air]~~ **GOVERNMENT** installations or equipment without first obtaining permission of the ~~[commanding officer of the military, naval, or air post, camp, or station]~~ **HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT, OFFICE, UNIT, BUREAU, AGENCY, CAMP, NAVAL, STATION OR AIR POST** concerned, ~~[or higher authority]~~ and promptly submitting the product obtained to such ~~[commanding officer or higher authority]~~ **HEAD OF THE**

DEPARTMENT, OFFICE, UNIT, BUREAU, AGENCY, CAMP, NAVAL, STATION OR AIR POST for censorship or such other action as he may deem necessary. Any person found guilty of a violation of this section shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than ~~[one year, or by a fine of not more than two thousand pesos,]~~ **SIX (6) YEARS AND ONE DAY OR BY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00),** or both.

SEC 9. *Photographing, etc., from aircraft, drone or other similar machines or devices.* – Any person who uses or permits or procures the use of an aircraft, drone, or other similar machines or devices for the purpose of making a photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map, or graphical representation of vital **GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT** ~~[military naval or air installations or equipment,]~~ in violation of section eight of this Act, shall be liable to the penalty therein.

SEC 10 *Reproducing, publishing, selling, etc., uncensored copies.* – After the President of the Philippines shall have defined any vital **GOVERNMENT** ~~[military, naval, or air]~~ installation or equipment as being within the category contemplated under section seven of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to reproduce, publish, sell, or give away any photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map or graphical representation of the vital **GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS OR EQUIPMENT ESPECIALLY** military, naval, or air installations or equipment so defined, without first obtaining permission of the **HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT, OFFICE, UNIT, BUREAU, AGENCY, CAMP, NAVAL, STATION OR AIR POST** ~~[commanding officer of the military, naval, or air post, camp, or station]~~ concerned, or higher authority, unless such photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map, or graphical representation has clearly indicated thereon that it has been censored by the proper ~~[military, naval, or air]~~ authority. Any person found guilty of a violation of this section shall be punished as provided in section eight of this Act.

SEC 11. *Destroying or injuring or attempting to injure or destroy war material in time of war.* – When the Philippines or the ~~[United States]~~ is at war **OR DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MARTIAL LAW**, whoever, with intent to injure, interfere with, or obstruct the Philippines ~~[or the United States]~~ or any associate nation in preparing for or carrying on the war, or whoever, with reason to believe that his act may injure, interfere with, or obstruct the Philippines ~~[or the United States]~~ or any associate nation in preparing for or carrying on the war, shall willfully injure or destroy, or shall attempt to so injure or destroy, any war material, war premises, or war utilities, as herein

defined, shall be imprisoned not more than thirty years or be fined not more than ~~thirty~~ **FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00)**, or both.

SEC 12. *Making or causing war material to be made in defective manner.* - When the Philippines ~~[or the United States]~~ is at war, whoever, with intent to injure, interfere with, or obstruct the Philippines or ~~[the United States]~~ or any associate nation in preparing for or carrying on the war, or whoever, with reason to believe that his act may injure, interfere with, or obstruct the Philippines ~~[or the United States]~~ of any associate nation in preparing for or carrying on the war, shall willfully make or cause to be made in a defective manner, or attempt to make or cause to be made in a defective manner, any war material, as herein defined, or any tool, implement, machine, utensil, or receptacle used or employed in making, producing, manufacturing or repairing any such war material as herein defined, shall be imprisoned not more than thirty years or be fined not more than ~~[-thirty]~~ **FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00)**, or both.

SEC 13. *Injuring or destroying national defense or NATIONAL SECURITY material, DOCUMENTS, premises, or utilities.* - Whoever, with intent to injure, interfere with, or obstruct the national defense **OR NATIONAL SECURITY** of the Philippines or the United States, shall willfully injure or destroy, or shall attempt to so injure or destroy, any national defense **OR NATIONAL SECURITY** material, **DOCUMENTS**, ~~[national defense]~~ premises, or ~~[national defense]~~ utilities, as herein provided, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than ten years or be fined not more than ten **FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00)**, or both.

SEC 14. *Making or causing to be made in a defective manner, or attempting to make or cause to be made in a defective manner, national defense material.* - Whoever, with intent to injure, interfere with, or obstruct the national defense of the Philippines **OR ITS ALLIED NATION** ~~[of the United States,]~~ shall willfully make or cause to be made in a defective manner, or attempt to make or cause to be made in a defective manner, any national defense material **OR NATIONAL SECURITY MATERIAL**, as herein defined, or any tool, implement, machine, utensil, or receptacle used or employed in making, producing, manufacturing, or repairing any such national defense material **OR NATIONAL SECURITY MATERIAL**, as herein defined, shall be imprisoned not more than ten years, or fined not more than ~~ten~~ **FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00)**, or both.

SEC. 15. IN ADDITION TO THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES ENUMERATED UNDER SECTION 2 OR REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10365 OR AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.9160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ACT OF 2001, ESPIONAGE IS HEREBY CONSIDERED AS AN UNLAWFUL ACT SUBJECT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL TO CONDUCT FINANCIAL INVESTIGATION AND FREEZING OF ACCOUNT.

ARTICLE III FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 16. *IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.* - WITHIN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AFTER PUBLIC HEARINGS AND CONSULTATION WITH CONCERNED SECTORS OF SOCIETY SHALL FORMULATE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT TO BE PUBLISHED IN AT LEAST TWO (2) NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION.

SEC. 17. *SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.* - IF ANY PROVISION OF THIS ACT OR ANY PART HEREOF IS HELD INVALID OR UNCONSTITUTIONAL, THE REMAINDER OF THE LAW OR THE PROVISION NOT OTHERWISE AFFECTED SHALL REMAIN VALID AND SUBSISTING.

SEC. 18. *EFFECTIVITY.* - THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AFTER FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM ITS PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OR IN A NEWSPAPER OF NATIONWIDE CIRCULATION.