

Original



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4887

Introduced by Representative Carlos Andes Loria

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to prohibit foreign interference, provide penalties for the violation thereof and create for the purpose the Counter Foreign Interference Task Force (CFITF).

Foreign interference is one of the most pressing security challenges of the 21st century. Beyond traditional espionage, it now takes hybrid forms such as cyber operations, disinformation campaigns, economic coercion, political manipulation, and the exploitation of democratic processes. These activities undermine sovereignty, destabilize politics, weaken the economy, and erode public trust in institutions.

The Philippines, located at the crossroads of strategic regional and global interests, is especially vulnerable. In April 2025, a Senate inquiry revealed indications that China could be interfering in Philippine elections through funded public relations operations, troll networks, and disinformation campaigns. Although denied by the Chinese government, its repeated disregard of Philippine sovereignty in the West Philippine Sea underscores the need for vigilance. Since then, legislators have been urged to prioritize the passage of a foreign interference law.

In the 19th Congress, a measure was filed in the House of Representatives entitled "*An Act Penalizing Foreign Interference in the Philippines and Creating the Counter Foreign Interference Task Force, and for Other Purposes,*"

introduced by Representatives Oscar G. Malapitan, Roman T. Romulo, Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, and Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, which laid the groundwork for the present measure.

With the recently concluded 2025 national and local midterm elections, concerns over foreign influence operations have only become more pronounced. Allegations of foreign-backed disinformation, troll networks, and covert funding highlight the urgent need for a comprehensive legal framework to address malign foreign interference. Safeguarding the integrity of Philippine elections and protecting democratic institutions from external manipulation remain paramount to preserving the sovereignty of the people’s will.

This bill seeks to fill the current legislative gap by defining and penalizing foreign interference in its intentional, reckless, and electronic forms, with penalties commensurate to its gravity as a national security threat. It criminalizes collaboration with foreign intelligence agencies and imposes sanctions on proposals, conspiracies, and preparatory acts that endanger national security. The measure also establishes the Counter Foreign Interference Task Force, an inter-agency body mandated to coordinate, prepare, and implement a National Counter Foreign Interference Strategy (NCFIS). It also empowers the Anti-Money Laundering Council to treat foreign interference as an unlawful activity that may be subjected to financial investigation, asset freezing, and forfeiture. Furthermore, it authorizes court-sanctioned surveillance and access blocking orders against malicious interference activities conducted through electronic communications, and extends the law’s reach extraterritorially to cover Filipino nationals and foreign individuals whose acts abroad directly harm Philippine sovereignty, institutions, or citizens.

By consolidating expertise under the CFITF, supported by specialized sub-groups in key sectors, the measure strengthens the country’s capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to interference. It adopts a whole-of-government and whole-of-nation approach consistent with the National Security Policy and aligned with international obligations.

This bill recognizes that foreign interference is not just a political issue but a direct assault on the Philippines’ sovereignty and democracy. It establishes the legal and institutional framework necessary to prevent, detect, deter, and punish malign influence operations, while protecting the constitutional rights and freedoms of the Filipino people.

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



CARLOS ANDES LORIA

1 shall deter, detect, and counter all forms of foreign interference, whether covert,
2 deceptive, coercive, or corrupting, that undermine the country's democratic
3 institutions, political processes, national security, and way of life by
4 strengthening inter-agency coordination, enhancing public awareness and
5 resilience, developing robust cybersecurity and information systems, and
6 fostering international cooperation to protect the Philippines from malign foreign
7 influence and safeguard the rights and freedoms of its people.

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

- 9 a. *Access Blocking Order* refers to a legal directive that mandates internet
10 service providers to restrict access to specific online content or services;
- 11 b. *Foreign Agent* refers to any person who acts or agrees to act as political
12 consultant, public relations counsel, publicity agent, information
13 representative, or as agent, servant, representative, or attorney for a
14 foreign principal, or for any domestic organization subsidized directly
15 or indirectly in whole or in part by a foreign principal, but shall not
16 include duly accredited diplomatic or consular officers of a foreign
17 country, officials of the United Nations and its agencies or other
18 international organizations recognized by the Republic of the
19 Philippines while engaged in activities within the scope of their
20 legitimate functions, or bona fide members or employees of a foreign
21 press service or news organization while engaged in activities within
22 the scope of their legitimate functions;

1 c. *Foreign Intelligence Agency* refers to a specialized organization
2 responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of
3 intelligence related to foreign entities, including governments,
4 organizations, and individuals, to ensure national security and support
5 governmental operations;

6 d. *Foreign Interference* refers to any effort, legal or illegal, undertaken or
7 supported by state or non-state actors or their proxies, to disrupt and
8 manipulate the political, military, economic, or social outcomes of
9 another nation, to advance the actor's interests through covert,
10 deceptive, corrupting or coercive actions;

11 e. *Foreign Principal* refers to the government of a foreign country or a
12 foreign political party; a foreigner located within or outside the
13 jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines; or a partnership,
14 association, corporation, organization or other entity owned or
15 controlled by foreigners.

16 f. *Person* refers to an individual, partnership, association, corporation or
17 any other combination of individuals.

18 g. *Target* refers to any individual or entity that a foreign actor attempts to
19 influence, coerce, or manipulate.

20 **SEC. 4. *Intentional Foreign Interference.*** – Any person who engages in
21 covert, deceptive, coercive, or threatening conduct on behalf of, or in
22 collaboration with, or directed, funded, or supervised by, a foreign principal, its

1 agent or proxy, with the intention to influence the political or governmental
2 process, affect the exercise of democratic or political rights or duties in the
3 Philippines or any part thereof, support the intelligence activities of a foreign
4 principal, or prejudice the national security of the Philippines, shall suffer the
5 penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of not less than Five Million Pesos
6 (P5,000,000.00) but not more than Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00).

7 **SEC. 5. *Intentional Foreign Interference Involving Targeted Persons.*** –

8 Any person who conceals or fails to disclose to the target any conduct carried out
9 on behalf of or in collaboration with, or directed, funded, or supervised by, a
10 foreign principal, its agent or proxy, with the intention to influence, coerce or
11 manipulate another person in relation to a political or governmental process, or
12 the exercise of any democratic rights or duties, of the target, shall suffer the
13 penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of not less than Five Million Pesos
14 (P5,000,000.00) but not more than Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00).

15 **SEC. 6. *Reckless Foreign Interference.*** – Any person who engages in a

16 covert, deceptive, threatening, or coercive acts on behalf of, in collaboration with,
17 or directed, funded, or supervised by, a foreign principal, its agent or proxy,
18 without regard on whether the act may influence the political or governmental
19 processes, the exercise of a democratic or political right or duty, support the
20 intelligence activities of a foreign principal, its agent or proxy, or prejudice the
21 national security of the Philippines, shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of

1 twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than Two Million Pesos
2 (P2,000,000.00) but not more than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00).

3 **SEC. 7. *Reckless Interference Involving Targeted Persons.*** – Any person
4 who conceals or fails to disclose to the target any conduct carried out on behalf
5 of, or in collaboration with, or directed, funded, or supervised by, a foreign
6 principal, its agent or proxy, without regard on whether the conduct may
7 influence another person in relation to political or governmental processes, or
8 another person’s democratic right or duty shall suffer the penalty of
9 imprisonment of twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than Two Million Pesos
10 (P2,000,000.00) but more than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00).

11 **SEC. 8. *Foreign Interference Involving Foreign Intelligence Agencies.***
12 – Any person who knowingly provides resources or material support to receive
13 or obtain funds from, or directly or indirectly makes available funds to, a foreign
14 intelligence agency or any person acting on behalf of such agency shall suffer the
15 penalty of imprisonment of Twenty (20) years and a fine of not less than Five
16 Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) but not more than Ten Million Pesos
17 (P10,000,000.00). Any person who unwittingly commits the aforementioned acts
18 shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment for twelve (12) years and a fine of not
19 less than Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) but not more than Five Million
20 Pesos (P5,000,000.00).

21 **SEC. 9. *Foreign Interference by Electronic Communications Activity.*** –
22 Any person who engages in covert or deceptive electronic communications that

1 may result in or involve publishing information on behalf of a foreign principal,
2 its agent or proxy, knowing or having reason to believe that the published
3 information is likely to prejudice national or public security, negatively impact
4 public health, safety, or finances, affect diplomatic relations, incite enmity among
5 groups or individuals, undermine public confidence in authorities, or influence
6 the outcome of parliamentary and presidential elections or referendums. shall
7 suffer the penalty of imprisonment of twenty (20) years and a fine of not less than
8 Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) but not more than Ten Million Pesos
9 (P10,000,000.00).

10 If, upon determination of the Chairperson of the Counter Foreign
11 Interference Task Force (CFITF), created under Section 13 of this Act, that an
12 electronic communication shall prejudice national or public security, negatively
13 impact public health, safety, or finances, affect diplomatic relations, incite enmity
14 among groups or individuals, undermine public confidence in authorities, or
15 influence the outcome of parliamentary and presidential elections or
16 referendums, the CFITF Chairperson may issue Access Blocking Order directing
17 the internet access service provider to take reasonable steps to disable access by
18 end-users in the Philippines to the online publication.

19 An internet access service provider that fail to comply with any access
20 blocking order shall suffer the penalty of One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) for
21 each day that the order is not fully complied with, but not to exceed Five hundred
22 million pesos (P500,000,000.00).

1 SEC. 10. ***Preparation or Planning for Foreign Interference.*** – Any
2 person who participates in the planning, preparing, or facilitating the commission
3 of acts defined and penalized under Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this Act shall
4 suffer the penalty of imprisonment of twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than
5 Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) but not more than Five Million Pesos
6 (P5,000,000.00).

7 SEC. 11. ***Conspiracy to Commit Foreign Interference.*** – Any conspiracy
8 to commit foreign interference penalized under Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this
9 Act shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of twenty (20) years and a fine of
10 not less than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) but more than Ten Million
11 Pesos (P10,000,000.00).

12 There is a conspiracy when two (2) or more persons come to an agreement
13 and decide to commit foreign interference as defined in this Act.

14 SEC. 12. ***Proposal to Commit Foreign Interference.*** – Any person who
15 proposes to commit foreign interference as defined in this Act shall suffer the
16 penalty of imprisonment of twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than Two
17 Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) but not more than Five Million Pesos
18 (P5,000,000.00).

19 SEC. 13. ***Counter Foreign Interference Task Force.*** – A Counter Foreign
20 Interference Task Force (CFITF) is created to lead the implementation of this
21 Act. The members of the CFITF are as follows:

22 a. National Security Adviser, as Chairperson;

- 1 b. Secretary of Justice, as Vice Chairperson;
- 2 c. Chairperson of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC);
- 3 d. Secretary of Foreign Affairs;
- 4 e. Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
- 5 f. Secretary of National Defense;
- 6 g. Secretary of Trade and Industry;
- 7 h. Secretary of Information and Communications Technology;
- 8 i. Secretary of Social and Welfare Development;
- 9 j. Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education;
- 10 k. Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines;
- 11 l. Chief of the Philippine National Police;
- 12 m. Executive Director of the Anti-Money Laundering Council-Secretariat;
- 13 and
- 14 n. Director-General of the Philippine Information Agency, as members.

15 The CFITF shall create specialized sub-groups, each focusing on critical
16 components such as political, economic, social, technological, educational, legal,
17 and military dimensions. These sub-groups shall implement the National Counter
18 Foreign Interference Strategy (NCFIS), created under Section 16 of this Act,
19 conduct risk assessments, and recommend policy adjustments to address
20 emerging threats.

21 **SEC. 14. Responsibilities.** – The CFITF shall:

- 1 a. Prepare, formulate, and implement the National Counter Foreign
2 Interference Strategy (NCFIS) and ensure its cohesive execution across
3 various agencies and sectors;
- 4 b. Collect, analyze, and assess intelligence related to foreign interference
5 activities;
- 6 c. Develop, review, and recommend policies and legislative measures to
7 address and counter foreign interference;
- 8 d. Manage and coordinate responses to incidents of foreign interference
9 and related crises;
- 10 e. Supervise and ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of
11 legal cases involving foreign interference;
- 12 f. Increase public understanding and resilience regarding foreign
13 interference through education and outreach initiatives;
- 14 g. Strengthen cybersecurity measures to protect critical infrastructure and
15 digital systems from foreign interference;
- 16 h. Foster international partnerships and collaborate on counter
17 interference efforts with other countries and global organizations;
- 18 i. Conduct regular risk assessments to identify vulnerabilities and
19 develop strategies to mitigate potential threats;
- 20 j. Monitor the effectiveness of counter-interference strategies and
21 provide regular reports on progress and challenges;

1 k. Oversee the allocation and management of resources necessary for
2 effective counter-interference operations; and

3 l. Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the
4 purposes of this Act.

5 SEC. 15. **Secretariat.** – The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency
6 (NICA) shall serve as the Secretariat of the CFITF and shall:

7 a. Provide administrative support to the CFITF by scheduling and
8 organizing meetings;

9 b. Organize and maintain a repository of documents, reports, and other
10 materials related to the CFITF’s work, including records of meetings.
11 decisions. and actions taken;

12 c. Handle internal communications between CFITF members and act as a
13 liaison between the CFITF and external stakeholders;

14 d. Monitor the progress of the CFITF’s initiatives; and

15 e. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the CFITF.

16 SEC. 16. **National Counter Foreign Interference Strategy (NCFIS).** —

17 Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the CFITF shall formulate
18 and implement a National Counter Foreign Interference Strategy (NCFIS). The
19 NCFIS shall provide a coordinated framework for detecting, preventing, and
20 responding to foreign interference, including risk assessments, capability
21 development, strategic communication, and periodic performance reviews.

1 **SEC. 17. *Extraterritorial Application.*** – Subject to the provision of any
2 treaty of which the Philippines is a signatory and to any contrary provision of any
3 law of preferential application, the provisions of this Act shall apply to:

4 a. Filipino citizen who commits any of the prohibited acts under Sections
5 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this Act outside the territorial jurisdiction of the
6 Philippines;

7 b. Individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial
8 limits of the Philippines, commit any of the prohibited acts under
9 Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this Act inside the territorial limits of the
10 Philippines;

11 c. Individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial
12 limits of the Philippines, commit any of the prohibited acts under
13 Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this Act on board Philippine ship or
14 Philippine airship;

15 d. Individual persons who commit any of prohibited acts under Sections
16 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this Act within any embassy, consulate, or
17 diplomatic premises belonging to or occupied by the Philippine
18 government in an official capacity;

19 e. Individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial
20 limits of the Philippines, commit any of the prohibited acts under
21 Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this Act against Philippine officials, their
22 representatives, staff, agent, or envoy; and

1 f. Individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial
2 limits of the Philippines, commit any of the prohibited acts under
3 Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this Act directly against the Philippine
4 government or their agent.

5 In case of an individual who is neither a citizen or a national of the
6 Philippines who commits any of the any of prohibited acts under Sections 4, 5,
7 6, 7, 8, and 9 of this Act outside the territorial limits of the Philippines, the
8 Philippines shall exercise jurisdiction only when such individual enters or is
9 inside the territory of the Philippines: *Provided*, That, in the absence of any
10 request for extradition from the State where the crime was committed or the State
11 where the individual is a citizen or national, or the denial thereof, the CFITF shall
12 refer the case to the Bureau of Immigration for deportation or to the Department
13 of Justice for prosecution in the same manner as if the acts constituting the
14 offense are committed in the Philippines.

15 **SEC. 18. *Authority of the Anti-Money Laundering Council.*** – In addition
16 to the unlawful activities enumerated under Section 3 (i) of Republic Act No.
17 9160, as amended, otherwise known as the “*Anti-Money Laundering Act of*
18 *2001*,” foreign interference, in any form, is considered as an unlawful act, subject
19 to the authority of the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) to conduct
20 financial investigation, freeze accounts, and forfeit assets.

21 The AMLC, on its own initiative or at the request of the CFITF, is
22 authorized to investigate:

1 (a) Any property or funds that are related to the commission of any form
2 of foreign interference; and

3 (b) Any property or funds of any person who, based on probable cause, is
4 committing or attempting or conspiring to commit, or participating in or
5 facilitating the commission of any of the offenses under this Act.

6 The AMLC may also enlist the assistance of any branch, department,
7 bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including
8 government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), in undertaking
9 measures to prevent the financing of foreign interference or support to foreign
10 intelligence, which may include the use of its personnel, facilities and resources.

11 For purposes of this section and notwithstanding the provisions of
12 Republic Act No. 1405, as amended, entitled “*An Act Prohibiting Disclosure of*
13 *or Inquiry Into, Deposits with any Banking Institution and Providing Penalty*
14 *Therefor;*” Republic Act No. 6426, as amended, otherwise known as the
15 “*Foreign Currency Deposit Act of the Philippines;*” Republic Act No. 8791,
16 otherwise known as “*The General Banking Law of 2000;*” and other laws, the
17 AMLC is authorized to inquire into or examine any deposits and investments
18 suspected to be related to of any of the crimes defined and penalized under this
19 Act with any banking institution or non-bank financial institution and their
20 subsidiaries and affiliates without a court order.

21 **SEC. 19. *Court-Authorized Surveillance.*** – The provisions of Republic
22 Act No. 4200, entitled “*An Act to Prohibit and Penalize Wire Tapping and Other*

1 *Related Violations of the Privacy of Communication, and for other Purposes,*”
2 to the contrary notwithstanding, a law enforcement agent or intelligence officer
3 may, upon a written order of the Regional Trial Court secretly wiretap, overhear,
4 and listen to, intercept, screen, read, surveil, record or collect, with the use of any
5 mode, form, kind or type of electronic, mechanical or other equipment or device
6 or technology or with the use of any other suitable ways and means for the above
7 purposes, any private messages in whatever form, kind or nature, spoken or
8 written words (a) between the foreign agent and the principal or his
9 representative; (b) between foreign agent and member of the Philippine
10 community; (c) or any person charged or suspected of committing any of the
11 prohibited acts under this Act.

12 The law enforcement agent or intelligence officer shall likewise (1) file an
13 *ex-parte* application with the Regional Trial Court for the issuance of an order,
14 to compel telecommunications service providers (TSP) and internet service
15 providers (ISP) to produce all customer information and identification records as
16 well as call and text data records, content and other cellular or internet metadata
17 of any person suspected of committing any of the prohibited acts under this Act;
18 and (2) furnish the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) a copy of
19 said application. The NTC shall likewise be notified upon the issuance of the
20 order for the purpose of ensuring immediate compliance.

21 **SEC. 20. *Convergence and Stakeholder Participation.*** All departments,
22 bureaus, offices, agencies or instrumentalities of the government shall, including

1 GOCCs, State Universities and Colleges, and Local Government Units, render
2 necessary support to the CFITF for the effective implementation of the NCFIS
3 and respond to incidents of foreign interference. The private sector, civil society,
4 and other stakeholders are encouraged to participate in the programs, plans, and
5 activities designed to build national resilience against foreign interference.

6 SEC. 21. **Appropriations.** The amount necessary for the initial
7 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the
8 CFITF member-agencies. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the
9 continued operation of the CFITF and implementation of NCFIS shall be
10 included in the General Appropriations Act.

11 SEC. 22. **Oversight and Reporting.** The Chairperson of CFITF shall
12 submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines and to the Committees
13 of National Defense and Security of the Senate and the House of Representatives
14 on the implementation of the NCFIS, including the accomplishments, challenges,
15 resource utilization, and policy recommendations concerning countering foreign
16 interference.

17 SEC. 23. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days
18 from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of CFITF and the Secretary of
19 Justice shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective
20 implementation of this Act.

1 SEC. 24. ***Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
3 remain in full force and effect.

4 SEC. 25. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules
5 and regulations, or parts hereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
6 repealed or modified accordingly.

7 SEC. 26. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

9 Approved,