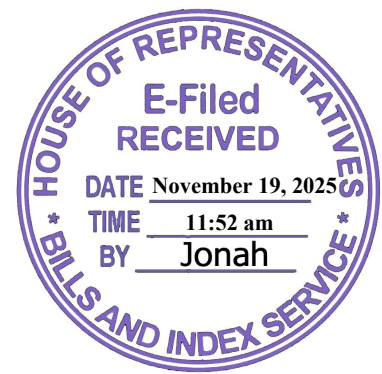


TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 6177

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At the present, the main laws on espionage in the Philippines are Commonwealth Act (CA) No. 616 or "An Act to Punish Espionage and Other Offenses Against the National Security" enacted in 1941 and the Revised Penal Code which took effect in 1932.

Article 117 of the Revised Penal Code provides:

Article 117. Espionage. - The penalty of prision correccional shall be inflicted upon any person who:

1. Without authority therefor, enters a warship, fort, or naval or military establishment or reservation to obtain any information, plans, photographs, or other data of a confidential nature relative to the defense of the Philippine Archipelago; or

2. Being in possession, by reason of the public office he holds, of the articles, data, or information referred to in the preceding paragraph, discloses their contents to a representative of a foreign nation.

The penalty next higher in degree shall be imposed if the offender be a public officer or employee.

The Philippines faces numerous threats from foreign intelligence services, terrorist organizations, and cybercriminals. Recent events have shown that there are alleged spies in the Philippines. Advancement in technology has made cyber espionage, data breaches, and online surveillance pose significant risks to national security and sovereignty.

There is a need to make it clear that the provisions of the Revised Penal Code on Espionage can be used whether in times of peace or in times of war.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
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AN ACT

AMENDING ARTICLE 117 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE REVISED
PENAL CODE"

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

SECTION 1. Article 117 of Act No. 3815, Otherwise Known As "The Revised Penal Code is
hereby amended to read as follows:

Article 117. Espionage. - The penalty of prision correccional shall be
inflicted upon any person who, **WHETHER IN TIMES OF PEACE OR IN
TIMES OF WAR:**

1. Without authority therefor, enters a warship, fort, or naval or military
establishment or reservation to obtain any information, plans, photographs,
or other data of a confidential nature relative to the defense of the Philippine
Archipelago; or
2. Being in possession, by reason of the public office he holds, of the
articles, data, or information referred to in the preceding paragraph,
discloses their contents to a representative of a foreign nation.

The penalty next higher in degree shall be imposed if the offender be a
public officer or employee.

SEC 2. Effectivity. - This act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in a
newspaper of nationwide circulation.

Approved,