

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6314



Introduced by **HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA, AND HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proliferation of fake news and disinformation across media platforms, especially social media, has dramatically impacted the socio-political landscape of communication, security, elections, public health, and democracy worldwide. For instance, in the context of science communication, Department of Science and Technology Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr., expressed in July 2025 that misinformation poses serious risks in our society as it can endanger lives through distrust, panic, and safety hazards, especially during public emergency situations.¹ In the May midterm elections, Malacañang also warned the public on the potential surge of fake news and reminded them to remain vigilant.²

This phenomenon is clearly manifested in the Social Weather Stations survey that indicates 65% of Filipinos admit they find it difficult to distinguish fake from real news, while 59% see disinformation on the internet as a “serious” issue.³ Further, the prevalence of fake news and disinformation has also significantly affected public trust in mainstream media. According to the survey of Publicus Asia in March 2025, 68% of respondents use internet search engines as their main source of political and current affairs information, followed by 66% and 65% for Facebook and television respectively, while established news outlets garnered significantly lower percentage scores.⁴

Section 24, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides: “The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building.” Moreover, Section 10, Article XVI states: “The State shall provide the policy environment for the full development of Filipino capability and the emergence of communication structures suitable to the needs and aspirations of the nation and the balanced flow of information into, out of, and across the country, in accordance with a policy that respects the freedom of speech and of the press.”

As communication channels evolve at an unimaginable pace, it is imperative to institutionalize responsive safeguard measures aimed at protecting the public while maintaining to uphold the fundamental freedoms stipulated in our Constitution. To ensure that

¹ DOST website (2025, August 21). *Dealing with Fake News in Sci-comm, among the highlights of the DOST 8th NRDC*. <https://www.dost.gov.ph/knowledge-resources/news/86-2025-news/4132-dealing-with-fake-news-in-sci-comm-among-the-highlights-of-dost-8th-nrdc.html#:~:text=%E2%80%9CMisinformation%2C%20particularly%20unverified%20content%20circulated,informed%20choices%2C%E2%80%9D%20Solidum%20added.>

² Philippine News Agency (2025, May 7). *Palace to public: Beware of fake news, don't be 'keyboard warriors*. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/articles/1249549>

³ Bilyonaryo News Channel. (2025, March 17). *59% of Filipinos view fake news as a serious issue – SWS*. <https://bnc.bilyonaryo.com/59-of-filipinos-view-fake-news-as-a-serious-issue-sws/news>

⁴ Philippine News Agency (2025, April 7). *Fake news lowers trust in PH mainstream media – survey*. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/index.php/articles/1247621>

our policies align with the material conditions of society and the abovementioned constitutional mandates, this bill seeks to:

- Define fake news, disinformation, social media platforms, cyber-enabled dissemination, and malicious intent.
- Identify prohibited acts including the malicious and knowing publication or dissemination of fake news or disinformation, especially those that incite violence, promotes hate speech, as well as acts related to the perpetuation of troll farms, bot networks, or coordinated campaigns aimed at spreading fake news.
- Impose penalties for violations including imprisonment for 6 years to 12 years and a fine from P500,000.00 to P2,000,000.00 or both, within the jurisdiction of Regional Trial Courts.
- Enumerate circumstances where maximum penalty shall be imposed, exceptions on the implementation of this measure, and guidelines for a judicial recourse.
- Require all social media platforms operating within the Philippines or providing services to users in the Philippines to designate a liaison officer to the Department of Information and Communications Technology.
- Create a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee for the implementation of this measure.

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



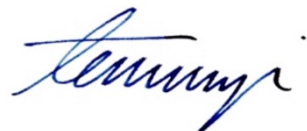
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**AN ACT PENALIZING THE MALICIOUS AND DELIBERATE DISSEMINATION OF FALSE
INFORMATION THAT UNDERMINES PUBLIC ORDER OR NATIONAL SECURITY,
STRENGTHENING REGULATIONS ON FAKE NEWS THROUGH DIGITAL PLATFORMS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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-Fake News and Disinformation Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State upholds the freedom of speech, of expression, and of the press under Section 4, Article III of the 1987 Constitution. However, the State also recognizes the increasing threat posed by the intentional dissemination of false information, especially through digital and social media platforms, which may endanger public safety, erode democratic institutions, and threaten national security. Towards this end, the State shall penalize such conduct, consistent with constitutional protections and human rights standards.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) *Cyber-Enabled Dissemination.* – use of internet-enabled technologies and platforms to commit acts penalized under this Act, including through bots, trolls, or coordinated inauthentic behavior;
- (b) *Disinformation.* – false information intentionally spread to deceive, manipulate, or influence public perception, behavior, or policy;
- (c) *Fake News.* – false or misleading information presented as fact or news, deliberately and maliciously disseminated to mislead the public, that may sow confusion, incite hatred or violence, or disrupt public order;
- (d) *Malicious Intent.* – deliberate or reckless disregard for the truth, with the purpose of causing harm, panic, hatred, violence, or undermining trust in institutions; and
- (e) *Social Media Platforms.* – websites, mobile applications, or other digital systems enabling users to create, share, or disseminate content, including but not limited to Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and other similar

platforms;

SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (a) Knowingly and maliciously publish or disseminate, through any medium including print, broadcast, or digital and social media, any fake news or disinformation as defined in Section 3;
- (b) Create, operate, or finance troll farms, bot networks, or coordinated campaigns specifically aimed at spreading fake news;
- (c) Disseminate fake news or disinformation that incites violence, promotes hate speech, discredits democratic institutions, or may cause public panic or disorder; or
- (d) Facilitate or allow the use of social media platforms or accounts to repeatedly and systematically engage in the conduct described above.

SECTION 5. *Cybercrime Linkage.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 10175, otherwise known as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, shall apply suppletory when the offenses under this Act are committed through computer systems or digital networks, particularly on:

- (a) Jurisdiction and venue;
- (b) Preservation and disclosure of computer data;
- (c) Real-time collection of traffic data;
- (d) Cooperation with service providers; and
- (e) Law enforcement authority.

SECTION 6. *Penalties.* – Any person found guilty of violating Section 4 shall suffer imprisonment of six (6) years to twelve (12) years and a fine of not less than P500,000.00 but not more than P2,000,000.00 or both, at the discretion of the court. In accordance with prevailing rules, jurisdiction shall lie with the Regional Trial Courts (RTCs).

SECTION 7. *Relation to Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code.* –

- (a) Offenses punishable under Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code that are committed through information and communications technologies or digital platforms shall be prosecuted under this Act, subject to the higher penalties and the procedural provisions of R.A. No. 10175.
- (b) Where applicable, the offender may be prosecuted under both this Act and Article 154, provided that the constitutional prohibition against double jeopardy is not violated.

SECTION 8. *Aggravating Circumstances.* – The maximum penalty shall be imposed if any of the following aggravating circumstances are present:

- (a) The offense endangers or undermines national security, public safety, or diplomatic relations;
- (b) The fake news relates to or interferes with elections, public health emergencies, disaster response, or peace negotiations;

- (c) The offender is a public officer, elected official, journalist, or social media influencer with 50,000 or more followers or subscribers, who knowingly leverages their platform to spread disinformation;
- (d) The act is committed using automated or coordinated digital systems, including the use of troll farms, bots, or sock puppet networks; or
- (e) The fake news is disseminated with the direct or indirect aid of a foreign government, foreign entity, or foreign individual, including financial, logistical, technical, or cyber infrastructure support, with the intent or effect of influencing public opinion, destabilizing institutions, or undermining democratic processes.

SECTION 9. *Exceptions.* – This Act shall not apply to:

- (a) Clearly labeled satire, parody, or editorial content;
- (b) Personal opinions or interpretations that do not claim to state factual assertions;
- (c) Honest mistakes made without malicious intent; and
- (d) News reporting or academic discourse made in good faith and with reasonable verification of sources.

SECTION 10. *Judicial Recourse and Appeals.* –

- (a) All prosecutions under this Act shall be filed in the RTC of the province or city where the offense was committed, or where the content was first accessed or downloaded.
- (b) The accused shall be entitled to legal counsel, to confront witnesses, and to a fair and public trial under the Rules of Court.
- (c) Convicted persons may appeal to the Court of Appeals and, where warranted, to the Supreme Court, in accordance with the Rules of Criminal Procedure.
- (d) Injunctive relief or constitutional remedies (e.g., habeas corpus, amparo, certiorari) may be sought by the accused if the enforcement of this Act results in violation of fundamental rights.
- (e) The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) may provide legal and monitoring assistance in cases alleging abuse of this Act for political or retaliatory purposes.

SECTION 11. *Designation of Liaison Officers by Social Media Platforms.* –

- (a) All social media platforms operating within the Philippines or providing services to users in the Philippines shall designate a duly authorized liaison officer to the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).
- (b) The liaison officer shall serve as the platform's official point of contact for matters involving:
 - (i) Compliance with this Act and other cyber-related laws;
 - (ii) Coordination on takedown or moderation requests involving malicious disinformation that threatens national security or public order;

- (iii) Emergency responses during critical events such as elections, disasters, or public health crises; and
 - (iv) Reporting obligations and transparency measures as may be required by the DICT or Congress.
- (c) Social media platforms shall submit to the DICT:
- (i) The full name and contact information of the designated liaison;
 - (ii) Updates to the designation within fifteen (15) days after any change; and
 - (iii) An annual report on the platform's enforcement actions related to disinformation targeting Filipino users.
- (d) The DICT, in consultation with stakeholders, shall issue guidelines for the registration, responsibilities, and performance evaluation of designated liaisons within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Oversight and Review Mechanism.* – A Joint Congressional Oversight Committee composed of members from the Senate, House of Representatives, the judiciary, and representatives from civil society and media organizations shall:

- (a) Monitor implementation of this Act;
- (b) Review enforcement procedures for potential abuse or overreach; and
- (c) Submit a report every three (3) years with recommendations for amendment or repeal, if warranted.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and operational.

SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. *Effectivity.* – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,