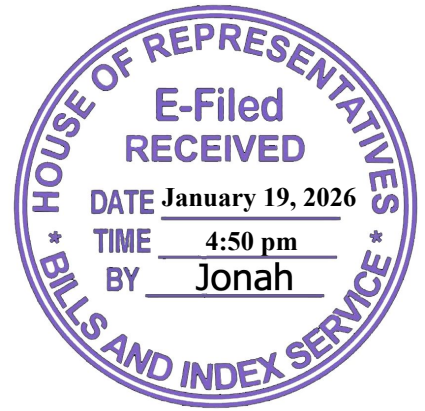


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7200



Introduced by Representative ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the State to pursue an independent foreign policy, where the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination. Sovereignty resides in the People, and any attempt by foreign entities to manipulate, coerce, or deceive the Filipino people or their elected representatives is a direct assault on the democratic foundations of the Republic.

The current legal framework, primarily **Batas Pambansa Blg. 39 (the Foreign Agents Act of 1979)** and **Commonwealth Act No. 616 (Anti-Espionage Law of 1941)**, is outdated and inadequate to address the "hybrid" threats of the 21st century. Contemporary foreign interference now takes the form of sophisticated disinformation campaigns, cyber operations, economic coercion, and covert political influence aimed at destabilizing our national security and eroding public trust.

This proposed Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive and robust framework to detect, prevent, and penalize foreign interference while ensuring transparency in legitimate foreign influence activities. It balances the need for national security with the protection of the people's constitutionally guaranteed civil liberties and freedom of expression.

The salient points of this Bill, derived from the collective spirit of existing legislative proposals, are tabulated below:

Salient Point	Description and Objective
Comprehensive Definitions	Clearly distinguishes between "Foreign Influence" (legitimate communication) and "Foreign Interference" (coercive, deceptive, or covert acts).
Transparency & Registration	Requires foreign agents to register with the NBI and mandates express disclosure of foreign funding during political influence activities.
Tiered Penalty System	Imposes life imprisonment for intentional interference and prison mayor for reckless acts that prejudice national security.
Cybersecurity Measures	Authorizes "Access Blocking Orders" to restrict online content published on behalf of foreign principals that threatens public safety or democratic processes.

Inter-Agency Oversight	Establishes the Counter Foreign Interference Council (CFIC) to coordinate a "whole-of-government" strategy against foreign malign influence.
Financial & Electronic Surveillance	Grants the AMLC authority to freeze assets related to interference and allows court-authorized surveillance of communication between foreign agents and targets.
Extraterritorial Application	Ensures the law applies to any person, including Filipinos abroad or foreigners whose acts directly harm Philippine sovereignty or citizens.

In view of the pressing need to safeguard our democratic processes from external manipulation, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

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HOUSE BILL NO. 7200

Introduced by Representative ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

AN ACT REGULATING FOREIGN INFLUENCE, PENALIZING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, AND CREATING THE COUNTER FOREIGN INTERFERENCE COUNCIL, PROVIDING MEASURES FOR NATIONAL RESILIENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "**Comprehensive Counter Foreign Interference Act of 2025.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to defend its national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security; to pursue an independent foreign policy; and to protect the decisional autonomy of the Filipino People. The State shall enhance its capacity to detect and respond to foreign interference to protect democratic processes and economic stability.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. –

a. Foreign Principal – refers to a foreign government, foreign political party, or any entity/individual located outside the Philippines or controlled by foreigners.

b. Foreign Interference – refers to any covert, deceptive, coercive, or threatening conduct undertaken on behalf of a foreign principal with the intent to influence governmental processes or prejudice national security.

c. Foreign Influence Activity – refers to any communication (oral, written, or symbolic) that seeks to influence the policies of the Philippine Government or public opinion on behalf of a foreign principal.

d. Access Blocking Order – a legal directive mandating internet service providers to restrict access to specific online content prejudicial to national security.

SEC. 4. Prohibited Acts of Foreign Interference. – Any person who engages in foreign interference as defined in this Act shall be guilty of a criminal offense. Specific prohibited acts include:

1. Interfering with legal rights and sovereign powers of the Philippines.
2. Coercion, intimidation, or surveillance of persons within Philippine jurisdiction.
3. Hacking or electronic interference with government systems.
4. Direct or indirect participation in partisan political or electoral activity.

SEC. 5. Transparency Requirements. – Any person conducting lobbying or political influence for a foreign principal must expressly disclose their identity, their principal's name, and the purpose of the communication. Recipients of foreign funding must submit verified reports to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

SEC. 6. The Counter Foreign Interference Council (CFIC). – A Council is hereby created, chaired by the Executive Secretary, with the National Security Adviser as Vice Chairperson. Its members shall include the Secretaries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Local Government, National Defense, and ICT, along with the AMLC Secretariat. The NICA shall serve as the Secretariat of the CFIC.

SEC. 7. Penalties. –

a. **Intentional Foreign Interference:** Life imprisonment and a fine of Five Million to Ten Million Pesos (₱5,000,000.00 to ₱10,000,000.00).

b. **Reckless Foreign Interference:** Imprisonment of twelve (12) years and a fine of Two Million to Five Million Pesos (₱2,000,000.00 to ₱5,000,000.00).

c. **Public Officials:** The maximum penalty and absolute perpetual disqualification from public office shall be imposed if the offender is a government official.

SEC. 8. Authority of the AMLC. – Foreign interference is hereby made a predicate offense under the Anti-Money Laundering Act. The AMLC is authorized to conduct financial investigations and freeze accounts suspected of being related to foreign interference without a court order.

SEC. 9. Access Blocking and Surveillance. – The CFIC may issue Access Blocking Orders to internet service providers. Law enforcement may, upon written order of the Regional Trial Court, secretly wiretap or record communications between foreign agents and their targets.

SEC. 10. Protection of Rights and Liberties. – No provision of this Act shall justify the undue infringement of natural, civil, or political rights. Any uncertainty in interpretation shall be resolved in favor of freedom of speech, expression, and association.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. – If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall remain in effect.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,