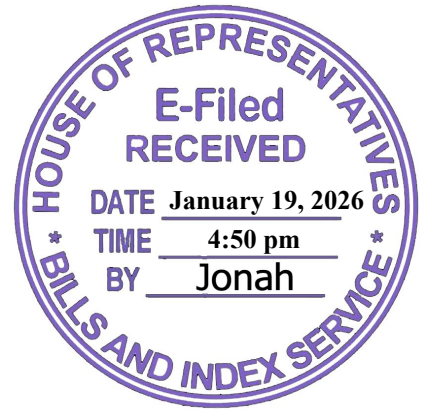


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7201



Introduced by Representative ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislative measure is formally introduced in direct response to the **strategic wishlist submitted by the National Security Council (NSC)**, which highlights an urgent need to fortify our legal defenses against the **growing threat of foreign espionage** in the Philippines. Recent intelligence and legislative inquiries during the **19th and 20th Congress have uncovered alarming evidence of foreign spies observing and monitoring major military installations and strategic civilian institutions** across the archipelago.

Our primary legal frameworks regarding espionage, being Pre-War penal laws – the **Revised Penal Code (1932)** and **Commonwealth Act No. 616 (1941)**, were established decades ago and are no longer sufficient to address the complexities of the modern era.

The emergence of sophisticated **cyber espionage, advanced online surveillance, and data breaches** necessitates a comprehensive overhaul of our national security laws to protect our sovereignty.

By updating definitions and significantly increasing penalties, this bill seeks to act proactively to safeguard the lives and property of the Filipino people, ensuring that our territory remains protected from both traditional and technological threats. In view of the immediate risk to national integrity, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

In view of the foregoing considerations, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7201

Introduced by Representative ALEXANDER T. PIMENTEL

AN ACT STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY BY EXPANDING THE
COVERAGE OF ESPIONAGE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 117 OF
ACT NO. 3815 (THE REVISED PENAL CODE) AND COMMONWEALTH ACT NO.
616, AND PROVIDING FOR HIGHER PENALTIES AND 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 “**Modern Espionage Reform Act.**”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the State's duty to protect the life, liberty, and property of its citizens, which are vital for a functioning democracy. Given the rapidly shifting global political and technological landscape, **national security shall be a paramount concern** of the State and every citizen.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- a. “**National Security**” encompasses political, human, military, border, economic, maritime, airspace, and **cyber security**.
- b. “**Classified Information**” refers to any matter, whether physical or electronic, designated as **Top Secret, Secret, Confidential, or Restricted**.
- c. “**Matter**” includes reports, maps, photographs, blueprints, recordings, or machinery, as well as information transmitted orally.
- d. “**Aircraft**” includes any device designed for flight, including **drones**.

SECTION 4. Amendment of Article 117 of the Revised Penal Code. — Article 117 is hereby amended to punish any person who, without authorization, enters or **aids another in entering** any military facility or installation to gather information, whether confidential or not, related to Philippine defense or security. Violators shall face **Life Imprisonment or a fine of not less than One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00)** if the intent is to injure the Philippines or benefit a foreign nation.

SECTION 5. Unlawful Disclosure. — Any person in possession of classified data by virtue of their public office who reveals such information to a foreign national, foreign power, or **criminal syndicate** to the detriment of the Philippines shall be subject to **Life Imprisonment and a fine of at least Two Million Pesos (₱2,000,000.00)**.

SECTION 6. Conspiracy and Proposal. — A conspiracy to commit espionage shall be penalized with **Prision Mayor in its maximum period** and a fine ranging from **Two Million to Three Million Pesos**.

SECTION 7. Misprision of Espionage. — Any person owing allegiance to the Philippines who knows of an act of espionage and fails to report it to the nearest police station shall be punished as an **accessory** to the crime.

SECTION 8. Prohibited Recording of Installations. — It is unlawful to use **drones or other devices** to photograph, sketch, or map vital government installations without express permission from the head of the concerned agency. Violations are punishable by up to **six years of imprisonment** and a fine of at least **Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00)**.

SECTION 9. Espionage and Money Laundering. — Espionage is hereby classified as an **unlawful activity** under the **Anti-Money Laundering Act**, granting the Anti-Money Laundering Council the authority to freeze accounts and conduct financial investigations related to these crimes.

SECTION 10. Liability of Corporations and Foreigners. — If the offender is a corporation, its top officers shall be held criminally liable, and the **corporate license shall be revoked**. **Foreign nationals** convicted under this Act shall be **immediately deported** after serving their sentence and barred from re-entry.

SECTION 11. Disposition of Property. — All property used in the commission of espionage or in furtherance thereof shall be **seized and confiscated** in favor of the government.

SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). — Within **120 days** of this Act's effectivity, the **Department of National Defense and the National Security Council** shall formulate the necessary IRR.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. — If any part of this Act is held unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. — All laws or executive orders inconsistent with this Act, including relevant parts of CA 616, are hereby repealed or modified.

SECTION 15. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect **fifteen (15) days** following its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,