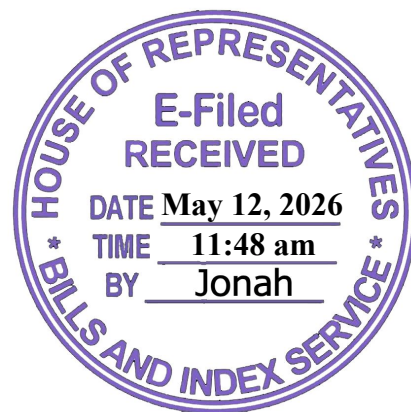


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9195

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
PENALIZING FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND
CREATING THE COUNTER FOREIGN INTERFERENCE COUNCIL, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Foreign interference has become a critical threat to Philippine sovereignty, fueled by the country's high digital dependence and evolving geopolitical pressures. Recent data show that 98% of Filipinos consume political news online, mainly through Facebook (98%) and YouTube (89%), heightening exposure to foreign-backed disinformation. A majority of Filipinos—59%—consider fake news a serious problem, and 65% find it difficult to distinguish truth from misinformation, underscoring national vulnerability¹.

Regionally, a 2024–2025 Safer Internet Lab study highlights a surge in Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) across Southeast Asia, intensified by the advent of generative AI and cross-border disinformation networks². Locally, the Reuters Institute reports that disinformation surged through 2024–2025, fueled by political polarization, coordinated attacks, and influence campaigns targeting mainstream media and democratic institutions. Enforcement actions, such as the disabling and suspension of accounts for violating platform rules, further illustrate the urgency of a comprehensive counter-interference policy³.

¹ <https://www.philstar.com/news-commentary/2025/04/05/2433662/weaponizing-information-how-foreign-local-forces-shape-2025-elections>

² [Research-Report-A4_FIMI.pdf](#)

³ [Philippines | Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism](#)

Despite these threats, the Philippines has no dedicated legal framework to address foreign interference, leaving gaps in addressing covert manipulation, digital propaganda, and indirect support to foreign intelligence actors. Existing criminal and cyber laws do not sufficiently cover deceptive influence operations or the use of unwitting intermediaries.

The Counter Foreign Interference Act addresses these gaps by defining foreign interference offenses, establishing specialized courts, strengthening investigative authorities, and creating the Counter Foreign Interference Council (CFIC) to coordinate whole-of-government detection, prevention, and response. These reforms align the Philippines with modern global practices to safeguard democratic institutions and national security.

In view of the clear and growing risks posed by foreign interference to the country's political processes, social stability, and sovereignty, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI

Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “*Counter Foreign Interference Act.*”

2
3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to maintain peace and order,
4 protect life, liberty, and property, and promote the general welfare as essential for the
5 enjoyment of all citizens of the blessings of democracy. Moreover, it is the policy of the State
6 to pursue an independent foreign policy wherein national sovereignty, territorial integrity,
7 national interest, and the right to self-determination serve as paramount considerations in its
8 relations with other states.

9 Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to protect and secure its national sovereignty
10 and security through the enactment of measures aimed at enhancing the nation's capacity to
11 detect, prevent, and respond to foreign interference.

12
13 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act:

- 14 a. Access Blocking Order refers to a legal directive that mandates internet service
15 providers to restrict access to specific online content or services.
- 16 b. Deception - An intentional or reckless act of misleading, whether through words or
17 conduct, including misrepresentation of intentions and/or conduct causing an
18 unauthorized response from a person, computer, machine, or electronic device.

- 1 c. Foreign Agent refers to any person who acts or agrees to act as political consultant,
2 public relations counsel, publicity agent, information representative, or as agent,
3 servant, representative, or attorney for a foreign principal or for any domestic
4 organization subsidized or funded directly or indirectly in whole or in part by a foreign
5 principal. This shall not include a duly accredited diplomatic or consular officer, or
6 officials of the United Nations and recognized international organizations, or bona fide
7 members of a foreign press service while engaged in legitimate functions.
- 8 d. Foreign Intelligence Agency- is a specialized foreign organization responsible for the
9 collection, analysis, and dissemination of intelligence related to foreign entities.
- 10 e. Foreign Principal- refers to the government of a foreign country or a foreign political
11 party; a foreigner located within or outside the jurisdiction of the Republic of the
12 Philippines; or a partnership, association, corporation, organization or other entity
13 owned or controlled by foreigners.
- 14 f. Foreign Proxy - refers to any person with a formalized relationship with the foreign
15 state who wittingly and knowingly conducts activities on behalf of the foreign state's
16 interests.
- 17 g. Internet Access Service Provider refers to any organization that provides individuals
18 and companies with access to the internet and related services.
- 19 h. Online Publication - refers to any content that is published and distributed on the
20 internet, including various digital formats such as websites, blogs, and electronic
21 articles.
- 22 i. People-refers to an individual, partnership, association, organization, corporation,
23 combination of individuals or any other persons collaborating with foreign agents,
24 principals or proxies.

25
26 **Sec. 4. Foreign Interference.** Any person who engages in covert, deceptive, coercive,
27 or threatening conduct whether alone or on behalf of, or in collaboration with, or directed,
28 funded, subsidized, or supervised by, a foreign principal, its agent or proxy, with the intention
29 or without regard that such conduct will influence the political or governmental process, affect
30 the exercise of democratic or political rights or duties, support the intelligence activities of a
31 foreign principal, or prejudice the national security of the Philippines, shall be guilty of
32 committing foreign interference.

1 **Sec. 5. Foreign Interference Involving Foreign Intelligence Agencies.** It shall be
2 unlawful for any unauthorized person to knowingly or unwittingly provide resources or
3 material support to, receive or obtain funds from, or directly or indirectly make available funds
4 to, a foreign intelligence agency or any person acting on behalf of such agency.
5

6 **Sec. 6. Foreign Interference by Electronic Communications Activity.** Any person who
7 electronically publish, alter, or delete information or materials on behalf of a foreign principal,
8 its agent or proxy, knowing or having reason to believe that the publication, alteration or
9 deletion is likely to prejudice national or public security, negatively impact public health,
10 safety, or finances, affect diplomatic relations, incite enmity among influential groups,
11 undermine public confidence in authorities, or influence the outcome of elections or
12 referendums, shall be guilty of foreign interference by electronic communications activity.

13 If, upon determination of the Counter Foreign Interference Council (CFIC) that an
14 electronic communication will cause such harm, the CFIC may issue an Access Blocking Order
15 directing the internet access service provider to disable access by end-users in the Philippines.

16 An internet access service provider that does not comply shall be fined One Million
17 Pesos (P1,000,000.00) for each day of non-compliance, up to a total of Five Hundred Million
18 Pesos (P500,000,000.00).
19

20 **Sec. 7. Preparing or Planning for a Foreign Interference Offense.** Any person who
21 participates in the planning, preparing, or facilitating the commission of acts defined under
22 Sections 4, 5 and 6 shall be guilty of preparing or planning to commit foreign interference.
23

24 **Sec. 8. Conspiracy to Commit Foreign Interference.** Any conspiracy to commit
25 foreign interference defined and penalized under Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 of this Act shall be
26 held liable.

27 There is conspiracy when two (2) or more persons come to an agreement concerning
28 the commission of foreign interference as defined in Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 and decide to
29 commit the same.
30

31 **Sec. 9. Proposal to Commit Foreign Interference.** Any person who proposes to
32 commit foreign interference as defined in Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7 hereof shall be held liable.

1 Proposal to commit foreign interference is committed when a person who has decided
2 to commit any of the crimes defined and penalized under the provisions of this Act proposes
3 its execution to some other person or persons.
4

5 **Sec. 10. *Aiding and Abetting the Commission of Foreign Interference.*** Any person
6 who knowingly or unwittingly aids, abets or protects a person who committed foreign
7 interference, or gives them information on the movements of the military, law enforcement
8 authority or intelligence units, when the latter are performing their official functions shall be
9 guilty of aiding and abetting the commission of foreign interference.

10 It shall be presumed the person performed them knowingly, unless the contrary is
11 proven.
12

13 **Section 11. *Reckless Imprudence Resulting in Foreign Interference.*** Any person
14 who, through reckless imprudence, engages in conduct that facilitates or results in foreign
15 interference as defined in Section 4, shall be penalized accordingly. For purposes of this
16 section, reckless imprudence refers to acting with inexcusable lack of precaution or disregard
17 of foreseeable consequences, thereby enabling or contributing to the influence of the political
18 or governmental process, affecting the exercise of democratic or political rights or duties in the
19 Philippines, supporting the intelligence activities of a foreign principal, or prejudicing national
20 security
21

22 **Sec. 12. *Penalties.*** Any person found guilty for knowingly committing any of the acts
23 under Sections 4, 5, 6 and 8 of this Act shall be punished with life imprisonment and a fine of
24 not less than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) nor more than Ten Million Pesos
25 (10,000,000.00), or both.
26
27

28 Any person found guilty of reckless interference, aiding, abetting or protecting persons
29 committing foreign interference as defined herein or giving information on the matters
30 enumerated herein shall suffer the penalty of twelve years and a fine of not less than Two
31 Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00) but not more than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00), or both.
32

33 **Sec. 13. *Offense by Public Officials and Aliens.*** The maximum penalties provided for
34 herein shall be imposed if the offender is a government official or employee. In addition, they

1 shall also suffer the penalty of absolute perpetual disqualification from holding any public
2 office or employment.

3 If the offender is an alien, he/she shall, in addition to the penalties herein prescribed, be
4 deported without further proceedings after serving the penalties herein prescribed and not be
5 allowed re-entry into the country.

6
7 **Sec. 14. *Trial of Persons Charged Under this Act.*** Any person charged for violations
8 of any of the provisions of this Act shall be tried in special courts created for this purpose. In
9 this regard, the Supreme Court shall designate certain branches of the Regional Trial Courts as
10 Counter Foreign Interference Courts.

11 Persons charged under the provisions of this Act and witnesses shall be allowed to
12 remotely appear and provide testimonies through the use of video-conferencing and such other
13 technology now known or hereafter be known to science as approved by the Supreme Court.

14
15 **Sec. 15. *The Counter Foreign Interference Council.*** A Counter Foreign Interference
16 Council (CFIC) is hereby created. The members of the CFIC are: (1) Executive Secretary, as
17 Chairperson, (2) National Security Adviser, as Vice Chairperson, (3) The Secretary of Justice
18 (4) Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), (5) Department of the Interior and Local Government
19 (DILG), (6) Department of National Defense (DND), (7) Department of Information and
20 Communications Technology (DICT), and (8) Anti-Money Laundering Council-Secretariat
21 (AMLCS), as its members.

22 In case the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson and members designate their permanent
23 representative to the Council, such representative shall be at least with a rank of Assistant
24 Secretary.

25 The (1) Commission on Higher Education (CHED), (2) Department of Trade and
26 Industry (DTI), (3) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), (4) Armed Forces of the
27 Philippines (AFP), and the (5) Philippine National Police (PNP) shall serve as the support
28 agencies of the CFIC.

29 The CFIC shall establish focus programs on critical components such as political,
30 economic, social, technological, education, legal and military. These focus programs shall
31 implement and enhance actionable plans, conduct risk assessments, and recommend policy
32 adjustments to address emerging threats. By centralizing expertise and resources, CFIC aims
33 to enhance the nation's capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to foreign interference, thereby

1 protecting democratic processes, economic stability, and national security. The CFIC shall
2 perform the following functions:

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

26
27 **Sec. 16. Secretariat of CFIC.** The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency of the
28 Philippines (NICA) shall be the Secretariat of the CTIF and shall be responsible for the
29 following functions:

- 30 a. Provide administrative support to the CTIF by scheduling and organizing meetings;
- 31 b. Organize and maintain a repository of documents, reports and other materials
32 related to the task force's work, including records of meetings, decisions and actions
33 taken by the task force;

- c. Handle internal communications between task force members and act as a liaison between the task force and external stakeholders; and
- d. Monitor the progress of the task force's initiatives.

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

- a. To a Filipino citizen or national who commits any of the acts defined and penalized under Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of this Act outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines;
- b. To individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial limits of the Philippines, commit any of the said crimes mentioned in Paragraph (a) hereof on board Philippine ship or Philippine airship;
- c. To individual persons who commit any of said crimes mentioned in Paragraph (a) hereof within any embassy, consulate, or diplomatic premises belonging to or occupied by the Philippine government in an official capacity;
- d. To individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial limits of the Philippines, commit said crimes mentioned in Paragraph (a) hereof against Philippine officials, their representatives, staff, agent, or envoy; and
- e. To individual persons who, although physically outside the territorial limits of the Philippines, commit said crimes directly against the Philippine government or its agent.

In case of an individual who is neither a citizen or a national of the Philippines who commits any of the crimes mentioned in Paragraph (a) hereof outside the territorial limits of the Philippines, the Philippines shall exercise jurisdiction only when such individual enters or is inside the territory of the Philippines: Provided, That, in the absence of any request for extradition from the state where the crime was committed or the state where the individual is a citizen or national, or the denial thereof, the CFIC shall refer the case to the Bureau of Immigration for deportation or to the DOJ for prosecution in the same manner as if the act constituting the offense had been committed in the Philippines.

Sec. 18. Authority of the Anti-Money Laundering Council. In addition to the unlawful activities enumerated under Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended, foreign interference, in any form, is hereby considered

1 as an unlawful activity subject to the authority of the Anti-Money Laundering Council to
2 conduct financial investigation, freezing of accounts, and forfeiture of assets.

3 The AMLC, either upon its own initiative or at the request of the CFIC, is hereby
4 authorized to investigate: (a) any property or funds that are in any way related to the
5 commission of any acts as defined and penalized under this Act: and (b) property or funds of
6 any person or persons in relation to whom there is probable cause to believe that such persons
7 are committing or attempting or conspiring to commit, or participating in or facilitating the
8 commission of any offenses under this Act.

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

14 For purposes of this section and notwithstanding the provisions of Republic Act No.
15 1405, otherwise known as the "Law on Secrecy of Bank Deposits", as amended; Republic Act
16 No. 6426, otherwise known as the "Foreign Currency Deposit Act of the Philippines", as
17 amended; Republic Act No. 8791, otherwise known as The General Banking Law of 2000" and
18 other laws, the AMLC is hereby authorized to inquire into or examine deposits and investments
19 suspected of any of the crimes defined and penalized under the provisions of this Act with any
20 banking institution or non-bank financial institution and their subsidiaries and affiliates without
21 a court order.

22 Any person who, without lawful excuse, refuses to disclose information or to comply
23 with any lawful order issued by the Anti-Money Laundering Council in connection with the
24 investigation or enforcement of this Act shall be penalized with imprisonment of six (6) months
25 to four (4) years, or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) but
26 not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the
27 court shall be liable under section 14 of Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-
28 Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended.

29
30 **Sec. 19. *Surveillance of Suspects and Interception and Recording of***
31 ***Communications.*** The provisions of the Republic Act No. 4200, otherwise known as the "*Anti-*
32 *Wiretapping Law*" to the contrary notwithstanding, a law enforcement agent or intelligence
33 officer, who are duly authorized by their respective heads of agency may, upon a written order
34 of the Regional Trial Court where any of the elements has been committed secretly wiretap,

1 overhear, and listen to, intercept, screen, read, surveil, record or collect, with the use of any
2 mode, form, kind or type of electronic, mechanical or other equipment or device or technology
3 now known or may hereafter be known to science or with the use of any other suitable ways
4 and means for the above purposes, any private messages in whatever form, kind or nature,
5 spoken or written words (a) between the foreign agent and the principal or his representative;
6 (b) between foreign agent and member of the Philippine community; or (c) any person charged
7 or suspected of committing any of the provisions of this act.

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

16 Any person, TSP, or ISP who, without lawful excuse, refuses to disclose information
17 or to comply with any lawful order issued pursuant to this Act, including orders of the court
18 authorizing surveillance or the production of records and data, shall be penalized with
19 imprisonment of six (6) months to four (4) years, or a fine of not less than One Hundred
20 Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php
21 500,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.

22
23 **Sec. 20. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The CFIC shall forthwith promulgate
24 such rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days
25 after its effectivity.

26
27 **Sec. 21. *Separability Clause.*** If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or
28 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

29
30 **Sec. 22. *Repealing Clause.*** All provisions of law which are in conflict with this Act are
31 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

32
33 **Sec. 23. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
34 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

1

2

Approved,