Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 3492  

Introduced by Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto  

EXPLANATORY NOTE  

This bill seeks to penalize the malicious prank callers to government emergency hotlines to prevent unnecessary delays and hindrances in the public service delivery during emergencies.  

As mandated by the government, emergency hotlines were established to provide an accessible portal for citizens who are involved in serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situations that require immediate attention and action. It is therefore only fitting that the state ensures the constant availability of the hotlines as well as the emergency responders. Prank callers prove to be hindrances to such as they intentionally fool our responders into possibly attending to them, which in turn wastes precious time and resources.  

It is high time that we, as public servants, ensure that our emergency service delivery remains accessible, seamless, and responsive to our citizens. It is the responsibility of the state to put safeguards in our law that will help facilitate the success of aforementioned goals. As such, in support of the efforts of this administration, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.  

JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO
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AN ACT
PENALIZING PRANK CALLERS TO EMERGENCY HOTLINES

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Prank Callers Act of 2019”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the general welfare or the people. Towards this end, the State aims to prohibit malicious and improper use of telecommunication devices.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act:

a) Prank call refers to a mischievous or malicious telephone call made to trick or fool someone with the intention to annoy, abuse, threaten, harass, or solicit any comment, request, suggestion or sound which is obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy or indecent, or a call intending to make false requests or false alarm of an emergency, knowing the report or information or alarm to be false;

b) Emergency refers to a serious, unexpected and often dangerous situation requiring immediate attention and action; and

c) Hotline refers to a direct telecommunication set up for a specific purpose.

Sec. 4. Prohibition. - Emergency hotlines established for the purpose of responding to emergency situations shall, at all times, be free from receiving unnecessary calls. It shall be prohibited for any individual to make prank calls to any hotline at any time.

Sec. 5. Penalties. - Any person who violates this Act shall be penalized with:

a) Arresto menor and a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for the first offense;

b) Arresto mayor a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) for the second offense; and

c) Prision correccional and a fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) for the third and succeeding offenses.
Provided, That the foregoing penalties shall be imposed without prejudice to other liabilities under the Revised Penal Code or any special law arising out of the prohibited act herein.

Sec. 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. - All acts and decrees, executive orders, implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. Effectivity - this Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines

Approved,