

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill Number **5718**



Introduced by Representative ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The onset of the internet has shattered world barriers empowering users with immense information and allowed them to be socially connected to virtually anybody around the globe in the comfort of their own homes.

Because of the anonymity that the internet gives, social and moral norms are easily switched off and users are emboldened to just say or post anything online without accountability. Internet bashing has become a culture among internet users and even spawned problems that involve hostility and aggression.

Cyber-bullying is one such problem that the advancement in technology and social media has generated. It can potentially affect not only school-aged children, but also any individual who has access to a mobile phone or the internet. Its harm is far more damaging because the trauma that it can inflict, even when no physical injury is involved, can strip one's dignity, sow fear or incite violence in an environment that has no boundaries and where malicious posts can be distributed rapidly.

This bill seeks to protect every citizen from the cruelty of cyber-bullying. By penalizing acts of cyber-bullying, people are encouraged to become responsible netizens and make them accountable for their cyber-actions.

Approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.

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AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE CRIME OF CYBER-BULLYING

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 “Anti Cyber-Bullying Act of 2015.”

SEC. 2. Acts of Cyber-Bullying. – For purposes of this Act, “cyber-bullying” shall refer to acts of cruelty committed using the internet or any form of electronic media or technology that has the effect of stripping one’s dignity or causing reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm such as, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Repeatedly sending offensive, rude, and insulting messages;
- b) Distributing derogatory information about the victim;
- c) Posting or sending offensive photos of the victim, whether these were digitally altered or not, or were taken with or without consent, with the intention to humiliate and embarrass the victim;
- d) Breaking into an email, social networking or any electronic account and using the victim’s virtual identity to send, upload or distribute embarrassing materials to or about others;
- e) Sharing the victim’s personal information or any embarrassing information, or tricking the victim into revealing personal or embarrassing information and sharing it to others;

- f) Repeatedly sending messages that include threats of harm or engaging in online activities that cause fear on the victim's safety.

SEC. 3. Penalties. – The penalty of Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than six (6) years, or both shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of cyber-bullying.

SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall jointly formulate the necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from approval of this Act, for its effective implementation.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,