



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5470



Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SAFETY INTERNET EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE
CURRICULUM OF ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines had been well known to be a country where there is a huge number of internet users. As of February 2022, around 79.66 million Filipinos are internet users¹. As a result of the pandemic, the number of internet users in the Philippines also increased. The Philippines ranks as second in Southeast Asian countries with Manila having a compound annual growth rate of 14.2%².

The 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall “establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society³. It further provides that the State shall recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs⁴.

The State has the duty, in recognizing the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall equip them with proper education and keep them up to date to the latest development and technological advancement. At this day and time, where technology and the use of the internet is widespread and continuously growing, the people must be able to adapt and this is possible by making sure that we have sufficient knowledge about it.

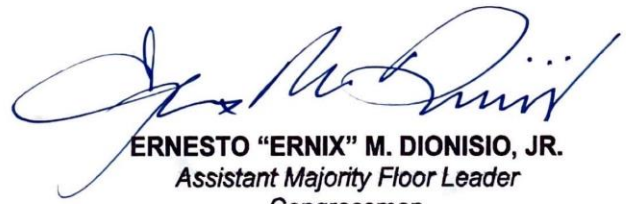
Currently in the Philippines, proper education with regard to safe internet use is not part of the curriculum in our educational institutions. Given that the technological and internet use in the world is continuously increasing, and there are multiple possible risks with its use, proper education regarding safe internet use is necessary. Having stated the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is necessary.

¹ DICT highlights the Digital Infrastructure Program on Philippine Internet Day available at <https://dict.gov.ph/dict-highlights-the-digital-infrastructure-program-on-philippine-internet-day/> (last accessed on September 26, 2022).

² Philippine Digital Convention 2021 available at <https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/archived-speeches/speech-digital-convention-2021/> (last accessed on September 26, 2022).

³ Article XIV, Section 2, 1987 Constitution.

⁴ Article II, Section 13, 1987 Constitution.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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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 “*Internet Safety Education Act*”.

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation building, and as such, to protect them and equip them with education in order for them to fully adapt to the changing and moving phase of technology, specifically the internet.

Sec. 3. Definition. – For the purposes of this Act, the terms:

- (A) “Internet Safety Education Program” means an age-appropriate, research-based program that encourages safe, ethical, and responsible use of the Internet, promotes an informed, critical understanding of the internet, and educates children and communities about how to prevent or respond to problems or dangers related to the internet or new media;
- (B) “New Media”
 - (a) Means emerging digital, computerized, or network informed and communication technologies that often have interactive capacities; and
 - (b) Includes e-mail, instant messaging, text messaging, web sites, blogs, interactive gaming, social media, cellphones, and mobile devices; and

Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. -

(A) The DepEd shall, in consultation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC):

- (a) Identify, develop, and implement Internet Safety education programs, including educational technology, multimedia and interactive applications, online resources, and lesson plans
- (b) Provide professional training to elementary and secondary teachers, administrators, and other staff on Internet safety and new media literacy;
- (c) Develop online risk prevention programs for children;
- (d) Train and support peer-driven Internet Safety education initiatives;
- (e) Coordinate and fund research initiatives that investigate online risks to children and Internet safety education;
- (f) Develop and implement public education campaigns to promote awareness of online risks to children and Internet safety education;
- (g) Educate parent about teaching their children how to use the Internet and new media safely, responsibly, and ethically and help parents identify and protect their children from risks relating to use of the Internet and new media; or

(B) The DepEd Secretary, in coordination with the DICT and the CWC shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and regulations, including those of disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce provisions of this Act. Further, the DepEd shall be the lead agency in the carrying out of the following: the Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 5. Appropriations. -- To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous operation of this program shall be included in the annual appropriation of the DepEd.

Sec. 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision or section of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions and sections not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrease, executive orders, or issuances, or any part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,