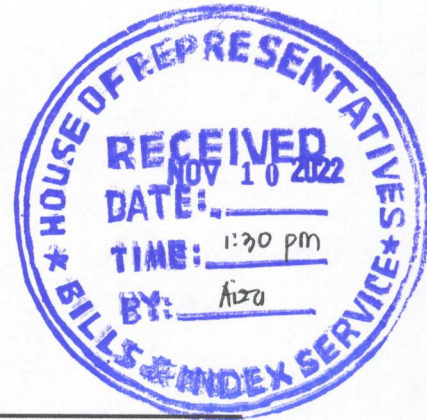


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6021**



Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The advent of the internet and the different social media platforms transformed the way information is disseminated and consumed. And while mainstream media – or the traditional and established broadcasting or publishing outlets – remains, the popularity of platforms such as Facebook or Twitter as means to distribute information and news is on the continued rise.

These new avenues grow more prominent as people look for easier and quicker accessibility. And while having the ability to post and access information at a click of a button has undeniable benefits, it also allows for the proliferation of disparaging and damaging false data and fake news – a problem that is quickly and steadily worsening.

Therefore, it is important that future Filipino professionals and leaders be taught how to responsibly protect and exercise their right to freedom of expression. Providing adequate training and knowledge to our students would likewise instill the importance of truth, responsibility, and accountability in the creation of a more progressive, free, and secure nation.

To adapt to the quickly changing social media landscape and the burgeoning problem of unchecked, misleading, and false information in different online and social media platforms, this bill seeks to introduce basic journalism as a mandatory subject in the senior high school to help promote a responsible and ethical social media.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought to mobilize and guide our youth in protecting our democracy through responsible, constructive, and productive social journalism.


GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR.
3rd District, CAMARINES SUR



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AN ACT IMPLEMENTING BASIC JOURNALISM COURSE AS MANDATORY SUBJECT IN THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL, TO STRENGTHEN THE JOURNALISM SKILLS OF THE YOUTH AS A BASIC TOOL TO PRESERVE OUR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AS PART OF DEMOCRACY, AND PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE AND ETHICAL SOCIAL MEDIA FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COUNTRY, UNDER TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Basic Journalism Act of 2022"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the youth as our future leader. The State also recognizes the importance of freedom of information and freedom of expression as a tool to our democracy therefore guiding our youth to express freely and responsibly and protecting them from exploitation of information abuse and misuse of the social media sites. In this light, the State shall provide an education for the youth to guide them and promote responsible social journalism and practice the freedom of expression ethically and responsibly

SECTION 3. - Free Educational Service. Education is a right not a privilege, it shall be free of charge for our youth. Immediately upon passage of this Act, a fund will be provided for the senior high school students to study Basic Journalism Course in TESDA or Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

SECTION 4. - Accelerated Program for the Basic Journalism Course. The TESDA shall provide a technical basic journalism program based on the professional standards without a conflict with the existing journalism courses offered by the different colleges that is being monitored by the Commission on Higher education. The senior high school students will have the basic journalism course as a basic tool of education now that we are on the information age.

The mandatory course will provide the students their knowledge for

(a) Prevention of Cyber crime law,

- (b) Ethical and professional social journalism
- (c) Anti-cyber bullying awareness
- (d) Promote self-social media regulation
- (e) Posting of credible information to help and build a credible nation
- (f) Anti-Fake News

SECTION 5. Research and Development. Communication Research and Development shall be pursued and priority shall be given to the development of effective, appropriate, and efficient communication technologies thru responsible journalism. The TESDA shall continue in developing the teaching professional standard and training journalism programs as it varies on the demand of this education in the information age.

SECTION 6. Manpower Complement. The TESDA shall strengthen its capability in providing technical assistance to the Private Sector were practitioners and experts and maintain communication and journalism research and development TESDA will provide directions, policies, programs and standards towards quality technical education and skills development for the Basic Journalism Course

SECTION 7. Monitoring and Evaluation. The TESDA shall monitor the implementation of Basic Journalism as a technical course. The TESDA shall review all existing program and technical providers after the completion of the course to determine their effectiveness. The TESDA shall employ the services of independent evaluators to assess the over-all impact of the Basic Journalism Course

SECTION 8. Report to Congress. The TESDA shall submit a detailed status report of its programs and accomplishments every year without prejudice to its mandate

SECTION 9. Appropriations. Such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from any available appropriations of the TESDA under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the succeeding appropriations for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The TESDA, DEPED, expert course providers and other stakeholders shall formulate the Rules and Regulations within Ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

