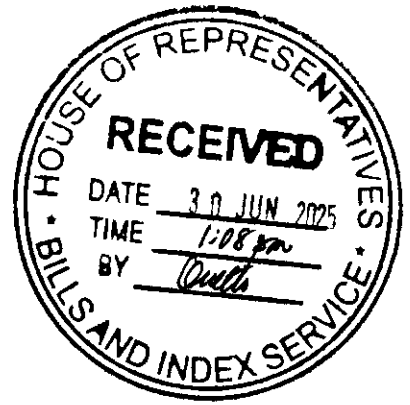


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **298**



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The need for a law promoting for the accountability of owners and members of social media websites through a rigid account registration process is crucial to our efforts in curbing criminal activities and spread of fake news and harmful contents on social media.

The responsibility of social media users will be enhanced, as anonymity will be reduced considerably. This can deter hate speech, cyberbullying, deliberate misinformation, and other harmful and malicious content, as users are less likely to engage in such behavior if their identity is known and traceable.

A clear identification process facilitates the identification of perpetrators of online offenses, enabling victims to pursue legal recourse more effectively. This can provide a stronger sense of justice and encourage responsible online content.

This measure will also encourage social media platforms to implement more robust content moderation policies and take quicker action against abusive accounts, as they would have a clearer understanding of their user base.

Further, the rigorous registration can help in minimizing the proliferation of fake accounts and bots, which are often used to spread spam, fake news that manipulate public opinion, and those who engage in fraudulent activities. An authentic users base contributes to a safer online environment.

While concerns about privacy and freedom of speech and expression must be carefully considered, the potential benefits of increased accountability, safety, and trust in the online environment justify the need of this measure.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is hereby earnestly sought.


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. **298**

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT PROMOTING THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF OWNERS AND MEMBERS
OF SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES AND PLATFORMS THROUGH A RIGID
ACCOUNT REGISTRATION PROCESS**

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 “Social Media Membership Accountability Act of 2025”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* – The purpose of this Act is to promote secure and accountable interactions, especially concerning online transactions between individuals and both public and private entities.

To achieve this goal, it is established as state policy that operators and members of social media websites and similar online platforms must validate the identities of their users. This requirement aims to ensure that these platforms are not used for criminal activities or other offenses online.

SECTION 3. *Electronic Identification Requirement* - The operators of social media websites and other similar online platforms, hereinafter referred to as operators, shall require its users to submit a valid proof of identification prior to registration of their services.

For Philippine-base users, government-issued identification cards, including barangay certification of identity shall be sufficient proof of identification for purposes of this Act. Work and school identification cards may also be used provided they reflect the actual name of the person so identified.

For existing members, the operators shall require that each member submit a valid Publication – the act of uploading content on an online intermediary with an intent to circulate particular information to the public.

SECTION 4. *Non-prohibited Acts* – Nothing in this Act shall prevent individuals from doing the following:

1. To have multiple accounts on the same website
2. Use of site allowable usernames different from their actual name

SECTION 5. *Analytics* – The operators should allow for analysis of their site data based on the actual identity of users regardless of the number of accounts that they use.

SECTION 6. *Disclosure of Real Identity* – The identity and other personal information of users shall not be disclosed to third parties except upon lawful order of the courts of law or law enforcement agencies.

All personal information on the website are subject to R.A. No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2013 and other privacy laws.

SECTION 7. *Penalty Clause* – If a person files a lawsuit involving any social media account, and the social media provider fails to identify and authenticate the account owner, the social media provider shall be held equally liable of the penalties imposed herein:

- a) Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.000) in fines or fifteen (15) days of community service, or both. For creating and using social media account that is not linked to valid identification card number provided by the government to each individual.
- b) One hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) in fines or ninety (90) days in prison, or both, for creating and using social media account for the purpose of performing acts of bullying, acts of defamation, libelous and malicious acts, and trade of illegal drugs, weapons and firearms, whether or not such account is linked to a valid identification card number provided by the government to each individual.

A person who registered as a user on a social media website or other similar online platforms using a falsified proof of identification shall suffer the penalty of a fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) or imprisonment for a period of not less than six months to not more than six years, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause* – If for any reason any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause*.- All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulation, and other issuances or part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,