



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1424**



Introduced by HON. ROMERO FEDERICO “MIRO” QUIMBO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As of January 2025, the average Filipino spends 3 hours and 34 minutes per day on social media, well above the global average. Additionally, 83.8% of the population (97.5 million individuals) are internet users, and 93.1% of internet users actively engage with social media platforms (DataReportal, 2025).

This massive digital footprint underscores the influence that online platforms have in shaping societal narratives, commerce, and even national security. Often branded as the “petri dish of disinformation”, the Philippines has been described by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom as alarmingly losing the war against disinformation: platforms remaining largely unaccountable for the spread of falsehoods such as unverified claims about cures and vaccines circulated widely, contributing to public confusion, vaccine hesitancy, and delayed health-seeking behavior amidst the pandemic.

Despite their immense reach, many of these platforms operate without a formal, local accountability mechanism. This creates challenges in enforcing data privacy, moderating harmful content, and ensuring that platforms respond to legitimate concerns of Filipino users and public institutions. At present, there is no centralized mechanism requiring large-scale digital platforms to register or disclose their governance practices.

This bill proposes a transparency-based framework for large-scale platforms with at least one million monthly Filipino users. It mandates registration with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), appointment of a Philippine-based representative, submission of regular transparency reports, and cooperation with government agencies for lawful enforcement. Platforms that fail to comply may face access restrictions, administrative sanctions, or legal referrals under relevant laws.

Importantly, this measure is crafted without prejudice to freedom of expression. It does not authorize censorship, content takedown based on opinion, or suppression of lawful

discourse. Rather, it ensures that platforms exercising outsized influence over public information act with transparency, accountability, and a duty of care to the Filipino public.

The proposed law upholds the right of every Filipino to a safe, transparent, and responsive online environment, while ensuring that digital innovation continues to flourish.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a smaller 'Q' and a final flourish.

HON. ROMERO FEDERICO “MIRO” QUIMBO

Representative

Second District, Marikina City



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE
REGISTRATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF LARGE-SCALE
ONLINE PLATFORMS, PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY IN DIGITAL
GOVERNANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “Social Media and Platform Accountability Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to foster a secure, inclusive, and transparent digital environment. The State recognizes the profound societal influence of large-scale digital platforms and seeks to ensure that such platforms operate responsibly, without compromising freedom of expression, data protection, or digital innovation.

SECTION 3. *Scope and Coverage.* — This Act shall apply to all Digital Platforms that:

- (a) Operate in or are accessible in the Philippines; and
- (b) Have one million (1,000,000) or more monthly active users located within the Philippines.

SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.* —

- (a) **Digital Platform** refers to any web-based or mobile application that allows users to create, share, view, or interact with digital content or with other users.

- (b) **Large-Scale Platform** refers to any Digital Platform with at least one million (1,000,000) monthly active users in the Philippines.
- (c) **Regulatory Authority** refers to the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) or any other agency designated by the President.
- (d) **Local Representative** refers to a natural or juridical person based in the Philippines, authorized to act on behalf of the platform in legal and regulatory matters.
- (e) **Transparency Report** refers to a publicly disclosed summary of a platform's content moderation activities, algorithmic decision-making, and risk mitigation practices.

SECTION 5. *Registration.* — All Large-Scale Platforms shall:

- (a) Register with the DICT through its designated registration system within ninety (90) days of reaching the threshold user base;
- (b) Appoint a Local Representative who shall serve as the official point of contact for the platform in the Philippines; coordinate responses to lawful government inquiries; represent the platform in any regulatory proceedings or consultations; and submit a description of its content governance policies, including automated decision-making or profiling operations, if any;
- (c) Submit and maintain updated documentation on their content moderation policies, data governance practices, and automated decision-making systems, if any;
- (d) If applicable, provide proof of compliance with NPC Circular No. 2022-04, including registration of their Data Processing System and designation of a Data Protection Officer.

Failure to register in accordance with this section shall result in removal or blocking of access to the platform in the Philippines, without prejudice to other enforcement actions under this Act or existing laws.

SECTION 6. *Powers and Functions of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.* — The DICT shall have the power to:

- (a) Conduct active investigations and compliance checks of platforms operating in the Philippines;
- (b) Undertake technical monitoring to detect unregistered platforms serving Filipino users;
- (c) Verify the accuracy of submitted registration data and take appropriate actions in case of false or misleading information;
- (d) Coordinate with other government agencies, internet service providers, and regulatory bodies to implement takedown measures or other interventions for non-compliant platforms.

SECTION 7. *Transparency and Public Accountability.* — Registered platforms shall publish biannual transparency reports that include:

- (a) Number of user content removals, disaggregated by type;
- (b) Number of user reports and appeals;

- (c) Description of algorithms or processes used for moderation and content curation;
- (d) Disclosures on data sharing and advertising practices affecting Filipino users.

SECTION 8. *Enforcement.* — The DICT shall have the authority to impose the following enforcement measures against platforms that fail to register or that violate the provisions of this Act:

- (a) Takedown or access restriction orders, in coordination with internet service providers, web hosting providers, and other technical intermediaries, for platforms found operating without registration or repeatedly violating compliance requirements;
- (b) Administrative fines or penalties, in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the DICT, subject to due process;
- (c) Suspension of eligibility to receive government advertisements or participate in official public information campaigns, pending full compliance with this Act;
- (d) Referral to appropriate law enforcement or regulatory agencies, including but not limited to:
 - (i) the National Privacy Commission (NPC) for violations related to data processing, profiling, or failure to register under NPC Circular No. 2022-04 and the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (R.A. No. 10173);
 - (ii) the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) and/or the Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group (PNP-ACG) for offenses punishable under the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 (R.A. No. 10175), including cyber libel, identity theft, or unauthorized access;
 - (iii) the Department of Justice (DOJ) or the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) for violations constituting criminal offenses under any existing laws, including but not limited to the Revised Penal Code, E-Commerce Act of 2000 (R.A. No. 8792), or other relevant statutes;
- (e) Publication of non-compliant entities through an official DICT registry or advisory bulletin to inform the public and relevant sectors.

In cases where the continued operation of an unregistered or non-compliant platform poses an imminent risk to public safety, national security, or the integrity of the digital ecosystem, the DICT may issue immediate preventive action, subject to post-action justification and review.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Unless otherwise specified, the DICT, and NPC, in consultation and coordination with appropriate national government agencies, civil society organizations, nongovernment organizations, private sector representatives, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act no later than ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act, or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

