



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2526



Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The dignity and privacy of road accident victims deserve utmost respect and protection. In recent years, the increasing use of smartphones and social media has enabled the rapid recording and dissemination of graphic images of road accidents, often without the consent of the persons involved or their families. Such non-consensual sharing of images not only violates the right to privacy but also inflicts further trauma and emotional distress on victims and their loved ones.

This proposed measure seeks to prohibit the unauthorized recording, broadcast, and publication of protected images of road accident victims on social media platforms. It establishes clear standards to protect the identities of accident victims while recognizing reasonable exceptions for legitimate law enforcement functions, emergency response, and ethical news reporting.

By penalizing the non-consensual recording and dissemination of protected images, this bill aims to foster a culture of respect, empathy, and accountability. It also provides a framework for cooperation with social media platforms to ensure timely takedowns of prohibited content and safeguard the welfare of road accident victims.

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

CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
Representative
5th District, Leyte



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Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE NON-CONSENSUAL RECORDING,
BROADCASTING, AND PUBLICATION OF PROTECTED IMAGES OF ROAD
ACCIDENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “Road Accident Privacy Protection Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the dignity, privacy, and security of individuals involved in road accidents. The unauthorized recording, broadcast, or publication of images depicting the injured, the deceased, or any identifiable victim of road accidents on social media platforms without consent constitutes a violation of privacy and may inflict undue emotional and psychological harm on victims and their families. The State shall, therefore, provide measures to safeguard such protected images and hold violators accountable.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) Protected Images — refer to photographs, video recordings, or any visual depiction of a person involved in a road accident, including images of injuries, the deceased, or any part thereof, which allows the identification of the person involved.
- (b) Non-Consensual Recording — refers to capturing images of road accident victims without their prior express consent, or, in the case of deceased persons, without the consent of their next of kin or legal representatives.
- (c) Broadcast and Publication — refers to the uploading, sharing, distribution, or dissemination of protected images through social media platforms, websites, or other electronic means accessible to the general public.
- (d) Social Media Platforms — refer to digital applications or websites that enable users to create and share content with the public, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and similar platforms.



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SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts.* – It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (a) Knowingly record, photograph, or video-capture protected images of persons involved in a road accident without their express consent or, in the case of the deceased, without consent of their next of kin;
- (b) Upload, broadcast, post, share, or otherwise publish such protected images on any social media platform without the required consent;
- (c) Sell or distribute such protected images for commercial gain without the required consent.

SECTION 5. *Exceptions.* – The prohibition under this Act shall not apply to:

- (a) Law enforcement agencies or emergency response personnel acting in the lawful discharge of their official duties;
- (b) Legitimate news reporting undertaken in good faith and in accordance with ethical journalistic standards, provided that the identities of victims are sufficiently protected and no gratuitous display of injury or death is made;
- (c) Recordings or images taken for official accident investigation or legal proceedings, subject to applicable confidentiality rules.
- (d) Protected image captured through automated filming and recording devices, such as but not limited to CCTVs and dashcams, unless the person in custody of the CCTVs and dashcams disseminates the protected images captured without the consent of the accident victim or immediate kin.

SECTION 6. *Consent Requirements.* – Consent under this Act must be obtained in writing through verifiable electronic means. In the case of deceased victims, the consent of the nearest surviving relative within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity shall be required.

SECTION 7. *Penalties.* – Any person found to have violated Section 4 of this Act shall be punished with:

- (a) Imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than three (3) years;
- (b) A fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) but not more than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00); or both, at the discretion of the court.



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If the violation is committed with intent to extort, or for commercial gain, the penalty shall be imprisonment of two (2) years to five (5) years and a fine of ₱200,000.00 to ₱500,000.00.

SECTION 8. *Liability of Social Media Platforms.* – Social media platforms that knowingly allow or fail to take down protected images within twenty-four (24) hours from notice by proper authorities or the victim shall be administratively liable, and may be fined up to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) for each proven violation.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement this Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED,