

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2745**



Introduced by Representative Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Truly, the internet has opened a whole new dimension of accessing information, of connecting and interacting with other people, and of expressing and entertaining oneself, unbound by the limitations of space and time.

Inasmuch as the internet offers novel advantages, it also inadvertently brings with it certain evils such as fraud, pornography, bullying, gambling and addiction to online and/or computer gaming. More recently, the proliferation of "fake news" and other types of misinformation circulating online have also been alarming and, unfortunately, it appears that it is often the youth that succumb to its seemingly innocuous yet pernicious magnetism resulting in dire personal, social, and economic consequences to the victims and their families.

In order to avert an impending crisis and to assist and support parents' efforts in rearing their children for civic efficiency and in the development of their intellectual, spiritual, and moral character, this bill seeks to integrate Internet and Social Media Education in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools. This measure aims to instruct and educate school-age children to the responsible and prudent use of the internet and social media platforms so that they may truly benefit from its advantages and avoid the dangers and risks arising from the uninformed and unregulated use thereof.

The task of addressing and preventing these problems related to the internet and social media is an exigency that needs the comprehensive and concerted efforts of the State and all concerned sectors. Systematic education of the youth while they are young is a proper first step.

The early adoption of this measure is thus earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jay V. Vergara', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JULIUS CESAR "JAY" V. VERGARA
Third District of Nueva Ecija

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1 **AN ACT TO INTEGRATE**
2 **INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA EDUCATION**
3 **AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL**
4 **PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
7 *assembled:*
8

9 **Section 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*INTERNET AND SOCIAL*
10 *MEDIA EDUCATION ACT*"
11

12 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to:
13

14 a. Promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and
15 social well-being of the youth in recognition of the vital role they play in nation-
16 building;
17

18 b. Support the primary right and duty of parents in rearing the youth for
19 civic efficiency and the development of their moral character through education;
20

21 c. Give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and
22 sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote
23 total human liberation and development;
24

25 d. Support and strengthen communication and information, recognizing
26 their vital role of in nation-building; and
27

28 e. Therefore, to instruct and educate the youth in the proper and prudent
29 use of the internet and social media in order to emotionally and intellectually
30 empower them to maximize the opportunities and benefits they may derived from
31 these, as well as to counter the various dangers and risks arising from their
32 uninformed and unregulated use.
33

1 **Section 3. *Mandatory Internet and Social Media Education Coverage.*** – All primary
2 and secondary schools, public and private, shall be required to integrate Internet and
3 Social Media Education in their curriculum, specifically on the proper use of the
4 internet and social media, the benefits of prudent use, and the harmful effects of
5 unregulated access and use.
6

7 **Section 4. *Course Design.*** – The Department of Education (DepEd), in
8 consultation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology,
9 shall integrate Internet and Social Media Education in the primary and secondary
10 schools' curriculum framework and develop appropriate grade-level-specific content
11 matrix.
12

13 Online gaming and gambling addiction specific lessons shall be introduced and
14 discussed from Grade three (3) to Senior High School.
15

16 **Section 5. *Teacher Training.*** – The DepEd, in consultation with the DICT, shall
17 train and equip public school teachers with the necessary information, skills, and
18 competency in delivering effective Internet and Social Media Education. DepEd
19 formulated training modules and DepEd sponsored training sessions shall be made
20 available to private school teachers free of charge.
21

22 **Section 6. *Capacity Building for Parents.*** – DepEd shall endeavor to empower
23 parents in the formation of their children by making available information, resources,
24 seminars or trainings as to the proper and prudent use of the internet and social media.
25 For this purpose, the DepEd shall coordinate with the parent-teachers associations as
26 partners in such capacity-building efforts.
27

28 **Section 7. *Transitory Provisions.*** The course shall be integrated in the primary
29 and secondary school curriculum in the next academic year following the approval of
30 this Act. In the interim, DepEd shall commence the development of the course
31 modules and the training of teaching personnel responsible for its execution.
32

33 **Section 8. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of
34 this Act shall be sourced from the yearly funds appropriated for the DepEd.
35

36 **Section 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the
37 other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.
38

39 **Section 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees or rules inconsistent with this
40 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
41

42 **Section 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
43 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers
44 of general circulation.
45

46 *Approved,*