



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

Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6080



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**Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre**

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**AN ACT**  
**REGULATING THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, PROVIDING**  
**PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN, MINORS AND CONSUMERS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The effects of social media to a child's development are vast. Alarming is the fact that excessive social media use may lead to poor mental conditions which include anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Addiction to the same also causes sleep disruption, poor academic performance, and issues with social skills. It is also undeniable that children are susceptible to online dangers such as cyberbullying, predators, and advertisements leading to poor lifestyle choices.

In view of these harmful effects on young users, there is a need to regulate minors' social media use through measures such as age verification, time limits, and content restrictions to protect them from online dangers.

Thus, this bill seeks to make compulsory the following on social media companies:

- To provide age restrictions and limitations on the use of all social media platforms;

- To provide adequate and efficient notification mechanisms on declared parents of a child;
- To strengthen its features restricting users under thirteen (13) years of age;
- Refrain from collecting personal and location information from anyone under thirteen (13) years of age without parental consent, and from anyone between thirteen (13) to seventeen (17) years old without the user's consent;
- Include "natural stopping points" for users to end scrolling after a certain amount of content;
- Provide a mechanism for its users to track the amount of time they spend on their platforms; and
- Automatically limiting the time users can spend on a platform across all devices.

Through this bill, the State will be able to assist parents and guardians in ensuring the safety of minors by holding platforms accountable for their impact and creating a safer digital environment that supports positive online experiences.

Finally, we recognize Rep. Dan S. Fernandez of the Lone District of Santa Rosa, Laguna for filing a similar bill in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Congresses.

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



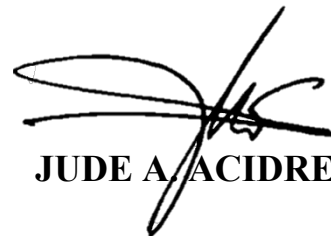
**FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ**



**YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**



**ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ**



**JUDE A. ACIDRE**



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*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 Regulation and Protection Act".

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy** - It shall be the policy of the State to supervise and regulate the flow of information on all types of media platforms with its citizenry. The State recognizes the vital role of information and communications technology in nation-building and its inherent obligation to support and protect the fundamental rights of individuals to privacy and confidentiality of their personal

information and communication while ensuring free flow of information to promote innovation and growth.

**SECTION 3.** It is hereby declared that the following shall be compulsory:

- a) Social media companies to provide age restrictions and limitations on the use of all social media platforms;
- b) Social media companies to provide adequate and efficient notification mechanisms on declared parents of a child;
- c) Social media companies to strengthen its features restricting users under thirteen (13) years of age;
- d) Prohibiting social media companies from collecting personal and location information from anyone under thirteen (13) years of age without parental consent, and from anyone between thirteen (13) to seventeen (17) years old without the user's consent;
- e) Requiring social media platforms to include "natural stopping points" for users, which would basically end scrolling after a certain amount of content;
- f) Requiring social media companies to make it easier for users to track the amount of time they spend on their platforms; and
- g) Automatically limiting the time users can spend on a platform across all devices to thirty (30) minutes a day. Users would be able change the limits, but they would have to do so every week.

**SECTION 4. Monitoring and Enforcement** - To attain the objectives of this Act and as the agency tasked for consumer protection, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall:

1. Ensure and protect the rights and welfare of consumers and business users to privacy, security and confidentiality in matters relating to Information Communication Technology (ICT) by adopting a monitoring and reporting system to track violators; impose fines and penalties for any the violation of this Act; and
2. Cause or initiate criminal or administrative prosecution with concerned government agencies for violations of this Act.

**SECTION 5. Department of Health** - To promote a data-driven approach to investigating the idea of social media addiction. This legislation would authorize the Department of Health (DOH) to head a research program on the effects of technology and social media on children.

**SECTION 6. National Privacy Commission** - The National Privacy Commission (NPC) with its function to monitor and ensure compliance of the country with international standards set for data protection in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012 shall:

- a) Receive complaints, institute investigations, facilitate or enable settlement of complaints through the use of alternative dispute resolution processes, adjudicate, award indemnity on matters affecting any personal information, prepare reports on disposition of complaints and resolution of any investigation it initiates, and, in cases it deems appropriate, publicize any such report;

- b) Issue cease and desist orders, impose a temporary or permanent ban on the processing of personal information, upon finding that the processing will be detrimental to national security and public interest;
- c) Compel or petition any entity, government agency or instrumentality to abide by its orders or take action on a matter affecting data privacy;
- d) Monitor the compliance of other government agencies or instrumentalities on their security and technical measures and recommend the necessary action in order to meet minimum standards for protection of personal information pursuant to this Act;
- e) Provide assistance on matters relating to privacy or data protection at the request of a national or local agency, a private entity or any person.

**SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations** - The DICT and other government agencies concerned shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions thereof within ninety (90) days after the Approval of this Act.

**SECTION 8. Separability Clause** - If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected hereby.

**SECTION 9. Repealing Clause** - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,