

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7336



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK REGULATING THE
EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN IN DIGITAL PLATFORMS AND ENSURING THEIR
PROTECTION IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT, ESTABLISHING DUTIES FOR
ONLINE PLATFORMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The digital environment has become an integral part of our children's lives, offering opportunities for learning, creativity, and social interaction. However, it also presents significant risks through addictive design and behavioral advertising. While Republic Act No. 11930, or the Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act, provides strong penal sanctions for sexual crimes against children online, it does not fully address the broader spectrum of digital harms that children face today.

This proposed legislation, the Online Safe Spaces for Children Act (OSSCA), seeks to fill that gap by adopting a regulatory and design-centric approach to child online safety. It imposes a duty of care on technology providers, requiring them to proactively design platforms that are safe and age appropriate from the outset. OSSCA complements existing penal laws by focusing on prevention, platform accountability, and child-centric digital safeguards.

Key features of the bill include:

- **Privacy-First Age Assurance:** Platforms must verify age using data-minimizing and auditable methods, ensuring children's privacy is protected.
- **Minimum Age Restrictions:** Children under 14 are prohibited from creating social media accounts, with parental consent required for ages 14–15.
- **Expedited Removal of Non-Consensual Intimate Images (ISA):** Platforms are mandated to remove harmful images within 24 hours and prevent re-uploading using hashing technology.
- **Ban on Behavioral Advertising:** Targeted advertising based on profiling of minors is prohibited.
- **Highest Safety Defaults:** Platforms must ensure that default settings prioritize child safety and privacy.

- **Public Awareness and Education:** The bill mandates digital citizenship literacy programs and the appointment of Online Safety Coordinators in schools.

Drawing from best practices from Europe, Australia, Brazil, and the United States, OSSCA aligns Philippine policy with global standards for child online protection. It shifts the burden of safety from children and parents to platform designers and service providers, ensuring that children can enjoy the benefits of the digital world without compromising their well-being.

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



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI

Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE REGULATION AND PROTECTION FOR
CHILDREN IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT, ESTABLISHING DUTIES FOR
ONLINE PLATFORMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Online Safe Spaces for*
2 *Children Act or OSSCA*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Consistent with Section 13, Article 11 of the
5 Philippine Constitution, the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building, and
6 promotes and protects their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It is
7 also the policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse,
8 neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination and other conditions prejudicial to their
9 development. The best interests of children shall be the paramount consideration in all actions
10 concerning them.

11
12 Towards this end, the State shall vigorously promote online safe spaces for children by
13 securing their interactions and transactions on the Internet, responding to risks such as exposure
14 to inappropriate content, inappropriate contact, reputational damage, and grooming. The State
15 shall adopt a safety-first approach¹ to mitigate the risk of harm from social media products,

¹ The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK594760/>

aligning with international principles requiring technology companies to prioritize user health and safety in product design.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. -

- a) *Child* refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age or those over but are unable to fully take care of themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition.
- b) *Online Platform Provider* refers collectively to mobile service providers, internet service providers, content providers, online retailers, app developers, and user-generated content, interactive, and social media providers.
- c) *Social Media Platform* refers to an online forum, website, or application that satisfies the following criteria:
 - a. Allows users to upload content or view the content or activity of other users;
 - b. Ten percent or more of the daily active users who are younger than sixteen (16) years of age spend on average two (2) hours per day or longer on the online forum, website, or application on the days when using the online forum, website, or application during the previous twelve (12) months or, if the online forum, website, or application did not exist during the previous twelve (12) months, during the previous month;
 - c. Employs algorithms that analyze user data or information on users to select content for users; and
 - d. Has any of the following addictive features:
 - 1. Infinite scrolling, which means either:
 - i. Continuously loading content, or content that loads as the user scrolls down the page without the need to open a separate page; or
 - ii. Seamless content, or the use of pages with no visible or apparent end or page breaks.
 - 2. Push notifications or alerts sent by the online forum, website, or application to inform a user about specific activities or events related to the user's account

3. Displays personal interactive metrics that indicate the number of times other users have clicked a button to indicate their reaction to content or have shared or reposted the content
4. Auto-play video or video that begins to play without the use first clicking on the video or on a play button for that video
5. Live-streaming or a function that allows a user or advertiser to broadcast live video content in real-time.

d) *Image-Based Sexual Abuse (ISA)*, as defined by RA 11930, refers to a form of technology-facilitated sexual violence involving the nonconsensual creation, distribution, or threats to distribute nude or sexual images, including "sextortion scams" and the use of artificial intelligence to construct "deepfake" pornographic videos

e) *Age Assurance*²³ *Measures* refers to processes used to establish or estimate the age of a user, which must be implemented in a manner that is data-minimizing, proportionate, and auditable.

SEC. 4. General Duties of Online Platform Providers (Safety-by-Design). - In pursuit of creating a safe and age-appropriate digital environment for children of diverse ages, Online Platform Providers shall comply with the following enhanced duties:

- a) Develop a child protection or safeguarding policy to identify, prevent, and mitigate the adverse impacts of information communication technology on children
- b) Integrate due diligence on child online protection issues into risk assessment frameworks at the organizational and product or technology levels to identify adverse impacts on children directly linked to their operations, products or services. This assessment must be transparent and share findings with independent researchers and the public in a privacy-protecting manner.
- c) Ensure that default settings for children are set to the highest safety and privacy standards
- d) Establish operational-level grievance and reporting mechanisms for any child's rights violations, such as inappropriate content or contact and breach of privacy

² https://www.eu-digital-services-act.com/Digital_Services_Act_Article_35.html

³ [edpb_statement_20250211ageassurance_v1-2_en.pdf](#)

1 e) Employ appropriate technical measures to prevent underage access and exposure to
2 inappropriate content or services, such as parental control tools, age-differentiated
3 experiences, filtering, and moderating

4 f) Prohibition on Profiling and Behavioral Advertising (*Adapted from EU DSA and*
5 *Brazil*)⁴: Online Platform Providers shall not present advertisements on their
6 interface based on profiling using the personal data of the recipient of the service
7 when they are aware with reasonable certainty that the recipient is a minor. Online
8 services shall be prohibited from using children's personal data in ways that cause,
9 facilitate, or contribute to the violation of their privacy or their best interests.

10
11 **SEC. 5. Identification, Prevention and Mitigation of the Adverse Impacts of ICT. -**

12 Internet service providers shall identify, prevent and mitigate the adverse impacts of
13 information and communications technologies on children's rights. Towards this end, ISPs
14 shall:

15 a) Provide mechanisms such as parental control software and tools that enable parents
16 to manage their children's access to Internet resources

17 b) Provide children with information on safer Internet use on the landing page

18
19 **SEC. 6. Promoting Enjoyable Digital Environment for Children. -** User-generated

20 content, interactive and social media service providers shall create a safer, more enjoyable
21 digital environment for children by taking the following actions:

22 a) Enforce minimum age requirements and take steps to identify and remove underage
23 users who have misrepresented their age to gain access;

24 b) Protect younger users from uninvited communication and ensure that privacy and
25 information-collection guidelines are in place;

26 c) Develop tools that actively seek to remove content that is illegal or in breach of the
27 terms of condition and service, as well as tools to prevent uploading of known
28 illegal content to the site.

29
30 **SEC. 7. Electronic Identification and Privacy-First Age Assurance -**

⁴ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/09/17/brazil-passes-landmark-law-to-protect-children-online>

1 a) Identification Requirement: Online Platform Providers shall be required to obtain
2 age verification or age estimation prior to registration for their services to ensure
3 compliance with age restrictions.

4 b) Privacy-First Assurance (Adapted from EU and Australia): Platforms adopting Age
5 Assurance Measures must ensure these measures are data-minimizing,
6 proportionate, and auditable. Personal information collected solely for age
7 assurance purposes must be destroyed when it is no longer required. The platforms
8 should minimize the collection of personal and sensitive information, ideally
9 collecting only binary information (under 18/18+ or under 16/16-) rather than
10 detailed age or non-age-related information.⁵
11

12 **SEC. 8. Prohibiting Social Media Accounts for Children Below Fourteen (14) Years**
13 **of Age.** - A Social Media Platform shall prohibit a child who is younger than fourteen (14)
14 years of age from entering into a contract to become an account holder. Further, a social media
15 platform shall prohibit a child who is fourteen (14) years of age from entering into a contract
16 to become an account holder, unless the child's parent or guardian provides consent for such
17 child to become an account holder. The platform shall terminate any account held by an account
18 holder younger than 14 years of age, subject to a ninety (90) day dispute period.
19

20 **SEC. 9. Protection of Children's Privacy.** - Mobile network operators and other Online
21 Platform Providers are hereby prohibited from collecting, using, or disclosing personal
22 information from children in a manner that violates the provisions of this Act.
23

24 **SEC. 10. Collection of Personal Information from Children.** - The collection of
25 personal data from children by any website or online service directed to children may be
26 allowed provided that the operator complies with:
27

- 28 a) Providing notice of what information is collected, how it is used, and the operator's
29 disclosure practices; and
30 b) Obtaining verifiable parental consent for the collection, use, or disclosure of
31 personal information from children.

⁵ <https://www.aoshearman.com/en/insights/ao-shearman-on-data/oaic-publishes-privacy-guidance-on-part-4a-social-media-minimum-age-of-the-online-safety-act>

1 **SEC. 11. *When Consent is Not Required.*** - Verifiable parental consent shall not be
2 required under the following circumstances:

- 3 a) Online contact information collected from a child that is used only to respond
4 directly on a one-time basis to a specific request from the child and is not used to
5 recontact the child and is not maintained in retrievable form from the operator;
- 6 b) A request for the name and online contact information of a parent or child that is
7 used for the sole purpose of obtaining parental consent or providing notice under
8 this Section and where such information is not maintained in retrievable form by
9 the operator if parental consent is not obtained after a reasonable time;
- 10 c) Online contact information collected from a child that is used only to respond more
11 than once directly to a specific request from the child and is not used to recontact
12 the child beyond the scope of that request;
 - 13 a. If, before any additional response after the initial response to the child, the
14 operator uses reasonable efforts to provide a parent notice of the online
15 contact information collected from the child, the purposes for which is to be
16 used, and an opportunity for the parent to request that operator make no
17 further use of the information and that it is not to be maintained in retrievable
18 form; or
 - 19 b. Without notice to the parent in such circumstance as the Department of
20 Information and Communications Technology (DICT) may determine are
21 appropriate, taking into consideration the benefits to the child of access to
22 information and services, and risks to the security and privacy of the child,
23 in rules and regulations promulgated for the effective implementation of this
24 Act.
- 25 d) The name of the child and online contact information, to the extent reasonably
26 necessary to protect the safety of a child participant on the site, is:
 - 27 a. Used only for the purpose of protecting such safety;
 - 28 b. Not used to recontact the child or for any other purpose; and
 - 29 c. Not disclosed on the site;

30
31 If the operator uses reasonable efforts to provide a parent notice of the name and
32 online contact information collected from the child, the purpose for which it is to be
33 used, and an opportunity for the parent to request that the operator make no further use
34 of the information and that it not be maintained in retrievable form; or

- 1 e) The collection, use or dissemination of such information by the operator of such
2 website or online services is necessary:
- 3 a. To protect the security or integrity of its website;
 - 4 b. To take precaution against liability;
 - 5 c. To respond to judicial process; or
 - 6 d. To provide information to law enforcement agencies or for an investigation
7 on a matter related to public safety.
- 8

9 **SEC. 12. *Notice and Expedited Removal of Non-Consensual Intimate Images.* -**

- 10 a) *Duty to Provide Takedown Mechanism:* Online Platform Providers that host user-
11 generated content or user-to-user services (including social media, gaming, and
12 messaging platforms) shall provide a clear, accessible, and timely reporting
13 mechanism for children who are victims of Image-Based Sexual Abuse (ISA) or the
14 non-consensual sharing of nude or explicit photographs or videos.
- 15 b) *Expedited Removal:* Upon receipt of a notice or complaint from a child, parent, or
16 competent authority that a nude or explicit image of a child is being hosted or shared
17 non-consensually, the Online Platform Provider shall exercise its duty of care to
18 immediately remove or take down the content within twenty-four (24) hours,
19 subject to good faith evaluation. This mechanism shall apply to images that are
20 harmful to children, including non-consensual images that cause reputational
21 damage or are used for sextortion.
- 22 c) *Prevention of Re-uploading (Hashing/Fingerprinting):* Platforms shall, where
23 technically feasible and proportionate, utilize industry-standard technology (such
24 as content hashing or fingerprinting) to detect and prevent the re-uploading or
25 sharing of content previously identified as non-consensual intimate images of a
26 child.
- 27 d) *Protection of Good Samaritan:* Any person or entity acting in good faith to report
28 cases or take down shared content to prevent access or dissemination of such
29 materials shall not be held civilly, criminally, or administratively liable.
- 30

31 **SEC. 13. *Role of the Department of Information and Communications Technology***
32 **(DICT).** - The DICT shall be the primary agency tasked with the protection of children using
33 the Internet and the implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 14. *Public Awareness Campaign.*** - The DICT shall develop, lead, undertake and
2 coordinate a nationwide program to heighten public awareness and involvement in furtherance
3 of the purposes of this Act, including establishing a national outreach and Internet Safety
4 Education campaign and promoting best practices for Internet safety.

5
6 **SEC. 16. *Digital Citizenship Literacy Program.*** - The promotion of a digital
7 citizenship literacy program shall be inculcated in all levels of education nationwide, with the
8 Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical
9 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) ensuring its implementation.

10
11 **SEC. 17. *Online Safety Coordinators.*** - There shall be appointed an Online Safety
12 Coordinator (OSC) in all primary and secondary schools to ensure the protection of all students
13 from potential harm that may occur through the Internet.

14
15 **SEC. 18. *Penalties.*** – All persons found to guilty of violating the provisions of this Act
16 shall be penalized by imprisonment ranging from one (1) year to three (3) years and a fine of
17 not less than Five Hundred Thousand pesos (Php500,000.00) but not more than Two Million
18 pesos (Php2,000,000.00) or both, at the discretion of the court. The online platforms of such
19 persons shall also be blocked, removed or taken-down by the DICT.

20
21 If the offender is a juridical person, the penalty shall be imposed upon the owner,
22 manager, partner, member of the board of directors and/or any responsible officer of an
23 enterprise who participated in the violation of this Act or shall have knowingly permitted or
24 failed to prevent its commission. In addition, the corporation shall be fined a minimum of ten
25 percent (10%) but not more than thirty percent (30%) of its net worth and its respective license
26 or permit to operate may be revoked.

27
28 **SEC. 19. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this
29 Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year
30 following its enactment into law and thereafter.

31
32 **SEC. 20. *Separability Clause.*** - If for any reason, a provision or part thereof is declared
33 invalid, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 21. *Repealing Clause.*** - All Acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
2 contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
3 accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 22. *Effectivity Clause.*** -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
6 publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

7
8 *Approved,*