

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 7571**



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Introduced by Representative **FLORENCIO "JOEBEN" T. MIRAFLORES**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Philippines is witnessing the same digital transformation that has swept across the world, with children and adolescents becoming some of the most active users of social media and other online platforms. For minors, online risks extend well beyond sleep and school. In the 2025 Global Online Safety Survey, 66 % of respondents reported experiencing at least one online risk in the past year. The most commonly reported risks were misinformation or disinformation (47 %), hate speech (33 %), and cyberbullying, harassment, or abuse (21 %), while child sexual exploitation and abuse (9 %), sexual solicitation (13 %), and deepfake pornography (12 %) were also significant concerns.

The scale of harm is most pronounced in the realm of child sexual abuse. New data released by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) in January 2026 show that 2025 was the worst year on record for online child sexual abuse material, with the organization taking action on 312,030 confirmed reports – a 7 % increase over 2024. Analysts saw a 26,362 % rise in photorealistic AI videos of child sexual abuse, discovering 3,440 AI-generated videos in 2025 compared with just 13 in 2024. Alarming, 65 % of these AI videos were categorized as Category A, the most extreme form of abuse. The IWF warns that without urgent action, AI tools could become “child sexual abuse machines,” making it easy for offenders to generate extreme material at scale.


Governments around the world are responding to these threats by re-balancing responsibility away from children and parents and towards the platforms that create and profit from digital environments. The United Kingdom’s Age-Appropriate Design Code requires organizations to adopt child-friendly design standards, minimize data collection, default to high privacy settings, and avoid practices that exploit children’s data or attention. The Online Safety Act, due to be fully implemented in 2025, builds on this by imposing a duty of care on online platforms, obligating them to prioritize safety, compliance reports, and follow codes of practice issued by the communications regulator. In California, a similar law requires businesses offering online services to children to assess and mitigate risks, limit geolocation

tracking, and ensure default privacy settings appropriate for minors. These developments signal a global shift towards placing regulatory burdens on platforms rather than families.

At the same time, there is growing recognition that blanket bans on social media use for minors may not solve underlying problems and can raise serious concerns about children's rights. An analysis from the Brookings Institution notes that such bans have faced legal challenges and opposition from civil liberties groups; they may restrict freedom of expression and access to information, and targeting how platforms are designed could be more effective. The same report observes that regulators in countries like Germany, France, and South Korea are adopting more targeted, less restrictive measures, such as raising the age for parental consent or restricting cellphone use in the classroom. These critiques emphasize the need for approaches that are rights-based, proportionate, and focused on platform accountability rather than total prohibition.

This proposed measure, therefore, refrains from imposing a blunt ban. Instead, it establishes a statutory duty of care for digital platforms, sets a minimum age requirement only for high-risk social media services, and mandates privacy-preserving age-assurance measures. It creates an independent Philippine e-Safety Commission to enforce the duty of care, conduct investigations, and impose sanctions on non-compliant platforms. It integrates digital literacy and cyber-ethics education into the school curriculum and requires platforms to provide parental supervision tools and to design services that are safe by default. By combining platform accountability, age-appropriate design, education, and parental support, the bill seeks to protect Filipino children within digital environments while upholding their rights to participate, learn, and express themselves.

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

  
**HON. FLORENCIO "JOEBEN" T. MIRAFLORES**  
Representative, 2nd District of Aklan

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Introduced by Representative **FLORENCIO “JOEBEN” T. MIRAFLORES**

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**AN ACT**

**ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY AND DIGITAL CHILD PROTECTION FRAMEWORK, IMPOSING A STATUTORY DUTY OF CARE ON DIGITAL PLATFORMS, SETTING A MINIMUM AGE FOR HIGH-RISK SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICES, CREATING THE PHILIPPINE E-SAFETY COMMISSION, PROVIDING EDUCATION AND PARENTAL SUPPORT, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**ARTICLE I**

**PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS**

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3       **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Digital Child Protection and  
4 Online Safety Act of 2026.”

5       **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to: (a)  
6 Safeguard children and adolescents from online harms, including cyberbullying, sexual  
7 exploitation, privacy invasion, misinformation, discriminatory content, and addictive digital  
8 design practices;

9       (b) Uphold the fundamental rights of children, including their rights to expression,  
10 information, participation, education, and development, consistent with the  
11 Constitution, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and related international  
12 instruments;

13       (c) Shift the primary responsibility for online safety from families and children to digital  
14 platforms that design, operate, and profit from online environments;

15       (d) Ensure that regulation of digital environments is necessary, reasonable, proportionate,  
16 and the least restrictive means of protecting children from harm;

17       (e) Promote digital literacy and empower parents, caregivers, and educators to support  
18 children’s safe participation in digital life; and

19 (f) Foster an innovation-friendly, competitive digital economy while mitigating systemic  
20 risks to young people.

21 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** – This Act aims to establish a statutory duty of care requiring  
22 digital platforms to assess, mitigate, and prevent foreseeable risks to children; set minimum  
23 age and age-assurance requirements for high-risk social media services while preserving  
24 children’s rights to information and expression; create an independent Philippine e-Safety  
25 Commission vested with regulatory, investigatory, and enforcement powers; provide clear and  
26 enforceable standards for privacy-preserving age assurance and data protection; integrate  
27 digital literacy, cyber ethics, and online safety into the basic education curriculum and teacher  
28 training; and establish mechanisms for parental tools and sustained public education to support  
29 families in safeguarding children in the digital environment.

30 **SEC. 4. Guiding Principles.** – The implementation of this Act shall be guided by the  
31 following principles: (a) **Best Interests of the Child.** — In all actions concerning children, the  
32 best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration. Services and regulations shall be  
33 designed to protect children’s welfare, development, and dignity.

34 (b) **Proportionality and Necessity.** — Restrictions on digital services shall be no more  
35 intrusive than necessary to achieve legitimate objectives. The least restrictive  
36 alternatives should be preferred.

37 (c) **Accountability of Platforms.** — Digital service providers that design, operate, and  
38 profit from online environments owe a duty to prevent and mitigate risks to child users.  
39 Regulatory burdens should fall primarily on platforms rather than individual users or  
40 families.

41 (d) **Privacy by Design.** — Age assurance, safety tools, and data processing practices  
42 should incorporate privacy by design and by default. Personal data collected for age  
43 assurance shall be minimized, secured, and deleted once used.

44 (e) **Participation and Inclusion.** — Children and adolescents should be involved in the  
45 design of safety policies that affect them and have accessible mechanisms to report  
46 harms and seek redress.

47 (f) **Cooperation and Multi-Stakeholder Engagement.** — Government, industry, civil  
48 society, parents, and children shall collaborate in advancing online safety.

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50 **SEC. 5. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall  
51 mean:

52 (a) “*Child*” refers to any person below eighteen (18) years of age.

53 (b) “*Minor User*” means a person below sixteen (16) years of age. The term “minor” in  
54 subsequent provisions shall be construed in accordance with this definition unless  
55 otherwise stated.

56 (c) “*Digital Platform*” refers to any online service accessible in the Philippines that  
57 enables user interaction, content sharing, messaging, recommendation systems, or  
58 social networking. It includes websites, mobile applications, social media platforms,  
59 streaming services, online games, forums, messaging services, and similar systems.

60 (d) “*High-Risk Social Media Platform*” refers to a digital platform where:

- 61 (1) A primary or significant purpose is public or semi-public social interaction  
62 among end-users; and
- 63 (2) The service employs algorithmic feeds, virality mechanics, infinite scroll, or  
64 other design features intended to maximize engagement; and
- 65 (3) The service permits user-generated content that is publicly available or viewable  
66 by persons beyond a user’s immediate contacts.

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68 Platforms whose core functions are private messaging, professional networking,  
69 enterprise collaboration, health, education, e-commerce, civic engagement, or  
70 streaming without open comments are excluded unless they meet the criteria of  
71 substantial social interaction and engagement-maximizing design.  
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73 (e) “*Covered Digital Platform*” means any digital platform accessible within the  
74 Philippines that processes personal data of Filipino users or makes its services available  
75 to them. High-Risk Social Media Platforms are covered platforms; however, other  
76 platforms may also be covered for purposes of the duty of care under this Act.

77 (f) “*Age Assurance*” refers to processes designed to reasonably determine whether a user  
78 meets a specified age threshold. Age assurance may include privacy-preserving  
79 methods such as document verification through third-party providers, anonymous age  
80 estimation, parental attestation, secure face-age analysis, or other technologies  
81 approved by the Philippine e-Safety Commission. Age assurance shall not require  
82 submission of government-issued identification unless specifically provided by law or  
83 user consent.

84 (g) “*Harmful Online Content or Practice*” refers to any of the following:

- 85 (1) Cyberbullying, harassment, hate speech, discrimination, or targeted abuse;
- 86 (2) Grooming, sexual exploitation, child sexual abuse material, or other forms of  
87 sexual or gender-based violence;
- 88 (3) Promotion, encouragement, or normalization of self-harm, suicide, eating  
89 disorders, or other harmful behaviors;
- 90 (4) Misinformation or disinformation directed at children that poses a significant  
91 risk of harm to health or safety;
- 92 (5) Algorithmic amplification of harmful or age-inappropriate content to minors;  
93 and
- 94 (6) Addictive or manipulative design practices, including mechanisms that exploit  
95 neuropsychological vulnerabilities of children to maximize engagement, such  
96 as, but not limited to, autoplay, infinite scroll, variable reward loops, or dark  
97 patterns.

98 (h) “*Parental Tools*” means digital tools provided by platforms that enable parents or legal  
99 guardians to supervise, limit, or monitor a child’s use of digital services, including  
100 content filters, screen-time controls, privacy settings, and account activity reports.

101 (i) “*Commission*” means the Philippine e-Safety Commission created under this Act.  
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## ARTICLE II

### CREATION OF THE PHILIPPINE E-SAFETY COMMISSION

**SEC. 6. Creation**– There is hereby created an independent, quasi-judicial body to be known as the Philippine e-Safety Commission (PeSC), hereinafter referred to as the Commission. The Commission shall be attached to the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) for budgetary coordination and administrative support, but shall exercise its powers and functions autonomously.

**SEC. 7. Mandate.** – The Commission shall promote and protect the online safety and digital well-being of children and adolescents in the Philippines. It shall regulate high-risk social media platforms and other covered digital platforms, enforce this Act and related laws, and coordinate with stakeholders to develop policies, codes, and standards for online safety.

**SEC. 8. Powers and Functions.** – The Commission shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Formulate and promulgate rules, regulations, codes of practice, and standards for the implementation of this Act, subject to the requirements of public consultation and transparency;
- (b) Require high-risk social media platforms to register with the Commission, submit risk assessments, and certify compliance with age and safety requirements;
- (c) Monitor and enforce the statutory duty of care imposed on covered digital platforms under Article IV;
- (d) Conduct investigations, either motu proprio or upon complaint, into potential breaches of this Act. It may require the production of documents, information, and testimony from platforms and other entities, subject to due process and data privacy safeguards;
- (e) Issue compliance notices, takedown orders, corrective directives, and administrative penalties as provided under Article VI. The Commission may impose fines, require modifications to platform design, restrict access to non-compliant services, and recommend suspension or removal of registration;
- (f) Coordinate with the National Privacy Commission (NPC), DICT, Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Philippine National Police (PNP) Anti-Cybercrime Group, and other relevant agencies on matters concerning online safety;
- (g) Develop and implement public education campaigns on online safety, digital literacy, and cyber ethics. Provide resources and training for parents, teachers, caregivers, and children;
- (h) Commission or conduct research on emerging technologies, online harms, and best practices for digital child protection. Advise Congress and other agencies on legislative and policy developments;

142 (i) Engage with regional and global regulators, international organizations, and tech  
143 companies to promote cross-border cooperation, mutual assistance, and harmonization  
144 of online safety standards;

145 (j) Appoint such officers and staff as may be necessary; and exercise other functions as  
146 may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

147 **SEC. 9. Composition** – The Commission shall be composed of: **(a) Chairperson.** —  
148 The Chairperson shall be appointed by the President and shall serve a non-renewable term of  
149 four (4) years. The Chairperson shall be a person of proven integrity and expertise in law,  
150 digital technology, child protection, or related fields.

151 **(b) Commissioners.** — There shall be four (4) full-time Commissioners appointed by the  
152 President, upon recommendation of the DICT Secretary, for staggered terms of six (6)  
153 years. Two Commissioners must be women, and at least one Commissioner shall have  
154 a background in child psychology or child development. Commissioners shall be barred  
155 from employment in or financial ties with regulated platforms during their term and for  
156 one year thereafter.

157 **(c) Secretariat.** — The Commission shall have a Secretariat headed by an Executive  
158 Director, responsible for technical, administrative, and operational support.

159 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as appointments and only for the unexpired  
160 portion of the term. The Commission shall act as a collegial body, and decisions shall be made  
161 by majority vote. For quorum purposes, at least three Commissioners, including the  
162 Chairperson, must be present.

163 **SEC. 10. Independence.** – The Commission shall enjoy fiscal and administrative  
164 autonomy. Its Chairperson and Commissioners may be removed only for cause and after due  
165 process. The Commission shall have its own budget line under the General Appropriations Act,  
166 separate from DICT, and shall have authority to receive grants, donations, and other forms of  
167 assistance, subject to national auditing rules.

168 **SEC. 11. Reporting and Accountability.** – The Commission shall submit an annual  
169 report to Congress and the Office of the President on its activities, enforcement actions,  
170 research findings, and recommendations. It shall maintain an online transparency portal  
171 containing anonymized data on complaints, investigations, penalties, and compliance, subject  
172 to privacy rules.

173 **ARTICLE III**  
174 **MINIMUM AGE AND AGE-ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK**

175 **SEC. 12. Minimum Age for High-Risk Social Media Platforms.** – Persons below  
176 sixteen (16) years of age shall not register or maintain an account on a high-risk social media  
177 platform.

178 (a) High-risk social media platforms shall take reasonable steps to prevent minors from  
179 creating or maintaining user accounts.

180 (b) No person shall be criminally liable solely for registering on a social media platform in  
181 violation of this provision; however, platforms that knowingly permit minors to  
182 maintain accounts without reasonable age assurance shall be subject to administrative  
183 penalties under Article VI.

184 (c) Minors may access publicly available content on high-risk social media platforms in a  
185 logged-out state, without creating an account, provided that such content is not  
186 age-restricted by law.

187 **SEC. 13. Age-Appropriate Modes.** – High-risk social media platforms are encouraged  
188 and may be required by the Commission to develop age-appropriate modes or youth accounts  
189 for users aged sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) years, which shall provide enhanced safety  
190 settings, content filtering, and privacy protections. In designing such modes, platforms shall  
191 consult with child-development experts and align with the duty of care obligations under  
192 Article V.

193 **SEC. 14. Reasonable Steps and Age-Assurance Methods.** – (a) **Duty to Implement**  
194 **Age Assurance.** — High-risk social media platforms shall implement age-assurance systems  
195 that use reasonable, privacy-preserving methods to ascertain user age. Reasonable steps  
196 include, but are not limited to:

197 (1) Provision of multiple age-assurance options so users are not compelled to surrender  
198 government IDs or excessive personal data;

199 (2) Use of trusted, independent age-verification providers approved by the Commission  
200 and subject to privacy and data security standards; and

201 (b) **Data Minimization and Purpose Limitation.** — Data collected for age assurance shall  
202 be used solely for verifying age and shall not be used for advertising, profiling, or any  
203 other purpose. Platforms shall store age-assurance data securely, limit access on a  
204 need-to-know basis, and destroy it immediately after verification or as required by  
205 Commission rules.

206 (c) **Reporting Requirements.** — High-risk social media platforms shall submit to the  
207 Commission annual reports detailing the methods used for age assurance, the percentage  
208 of users verified through each method, challenges encountered, and improvements  
209 planned.

210 (d) **Review and Updating of Age-Assurance Technologies.** — The Commission shall  
211 conduct periodic reviews of age-assurance technologies to ensure they remain  
212 proportionate, effective, and privacy-respecting. It may order platforms to adopt  
213 improved methods as technology evolves

214 **SEC. 15. Exemptions.** - Nothing in this Act shall restrict minors from accessing news  
215 media websites, government information portals, emergency communications, or other online  
216 services clearly dedicated to disseminating information of public interest, provided that such  
217 services are not high-risk social media platforms.

218 **ARTICLE IV**  
219 **STATUTORY DIGITAL DUTY OF CARE**

220 **SEC. 16. Duty of Care.**– Every covered digital platform accessible in the Philippines  
221 owes to children and adolescents a statutory duty of care to identify, prevent, and mitigate  
222 foreseeable risks arising from their services. Breach of this duty may subject the platform to  
223 administrative liability under this Act and civil liability under existing laws.

224 **SEC. 17. Obligations Under the Duty of Care.** - The duty of care entails the following  
225 obligations, commensurate with the nature, scale, and risks of the platform:

- 226 (a) **Risk Assessment.** — Platforms shall conduct and document regular risk assessments  
227 identifying potential harms to children stemming from their design, algorithms, content  
228 policies, and business models. Risk assessments shall be submitted to the Commission  
229 upon request and updated annually.
- 230 (b) **Risk Mitigation.** — Platforms shall implement measures to mitigate identified risks,  
231 including:
- 232 (1) **Algorithmic Safety.** — Adjusting recommendation systems to reduce  
233 amplification of harmful, age-inappropriate, or disinformative content to minors;
- 234 (2) **Content Moderation.** — Establishing robust content moderation processes,  
235 including proactive detection and removal of harmful online content or practice as  
236 defined under Section 5(g);
- 237 (3) **Default Settings.** — Ensuring that accounts for users below eighteen (18) years old  
238 are set to the highest privacy and safety settings by default, such as private profiles,  
239 limited messaging, and restricted content sharing;
- 240 (4) **Addictive Design Restrictions.** — Disabling or limiting design features that  
241 exploit children’s psychological vulnerabilities, such as infinite scroll, autoplay,  
242 variable rewards, lock-in loops, or manipulative notifications, particularly for  
243 minors;
- 244 (5) **Reporting Mechanisms.** — Providing accessible and age-appropriate mechanisms  
245 for users to report harmful content, harassment, or abuse, and ensuring timely  
246 responses and redress;
- 247 (6) **Transparency.** — Publishing clear terms of service and community standards that  
248 are comprehensible to young users and disclosing data practices relevant to minors;
- 249 (7) **Human Oversight.** — Ensuring that automated moderation is complemented by  
250 trained human moderators, particularly for contexts requiring sensitivity or cultural  
251 nuance;
- 252 (8) **Consultation.** — Consulting with child-development specialists, educators, and  
253 civil society in designing safety features and policies.
- 254 (c) **Platform Transparency Reporting.** — Platforms shall publish semi-annual  
255 transparency reports in a form prescribed by the Commission, disclosing, at a  
256 minimum:
- 257 (1) Volume and categories of user reports received concerning minors;
- 258 (2) Volume of content removed or actioned on due to harms involving minors;
- 259 (3) Details of risk assessments conducted and mitigation measures adopted;
- 260 (4) Results of third-party audits or independent reviews, where required;
- 261 (5) Summary of algorithmic changes made to reduce harm to minors.
- 262 (d) **Independent Audits.** — The Commission may require high-risk social media  
263 platforms and certain covered platforms to undergo independent safety audits by  
264 qualified third parties at intervals to be prescribed by the Commission. Audits shall

265 evaluate compliance with the duty of care and identify systemic weaknesses. Platforms  
266 shall bear the cost of audits.

267 (e) **Children’s Rights Impact Assessment.** — For major changes to platform design,  
268 terms of service, or monetization models, the platform shall conduct a Children’s Rights  
269 Impact Assessment (CRIA), identifying potential effects on minors’ safety, privacy,  
270 well-being, and rights. The CRIA shall be submitted to the Commission before  
271 implementation.

272 **ARTICLE V**  
273 **EDUCATION, PARENTAL SUPPORT, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

274 **SEC. 18. Integration of Digital Literacy and Online Safety in Education.** — The  
275 Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission and the Commission  
276 on Higher Education (CHED), shall integrate digital literacy, critical media skills, cyber ethics,  
277 data privacy, and online safety into the basic education curriculum and teacher training  
278 programs. Such integration shall include:

279 (a) Age-appropriate instruction on safe and responsible internet use, information  
280 verification, and respectful online conduct;

281 (b) Awareness of risks associated with social media, gaming, and other digital  
282 environments;

283 (c) Skills for protecting personal data, managing screen time, and recognizing manipulative  
284 design; and

285 (d) Resources and training materials for teachers, guidance counsellors, and parents.

286 The DepEd shall issue implementing guidelines within one (1) year from the effectivity  
287 of this Act, in consultation with the Commission.

288 **SEC. 19. Parental Tools and Support.** — (a) **Provision of Parental Tools.** — All  
289 high-risk social media platforms and covered digital platforms that allow children’s accounts  
290 shall provide, free of charge, parental tools enabling parents or legal guardians to:

291 (1) Control privacy settings and account visibility;

292 (2) Restrict or monitor content and interactions;

293 (3) Set time limits and usage schedules; and

294 (4) Receive activity summaries and safety alerts.

295 (b) **Parental Education.** — The Commission, together with DICT, DepEd, DSWD, and  
296 civil society groups, shall develop and disseminate educational resources to assist  
297 parents and caregivers in understanding online risks, platform features, and the use of  
298 parental tools.

299 (c) **Support for Vulnerable Families.** — Special programs shall be developed for families  
300 with limited digital literacy, low socio-economic status, or with children at risk of  
301 online exploitation. Assistance may include training, counselling, and  
302 community-based support.

303 **SEC. 20. Community and Civil Society Engagement.** — The Commission shall  
304 establish mechanisms for regular consultation with children, youth organizations, child-rights

305 advocates, industry representatives, teachers, parents' associations, and other stakeholders.  
306 This may include annual forums, multi-stakeholder advisory committees, and participatory  
307 design workshops. Feedback obtained shall inform the Commission's rule-making and  
308 enforcement priorities.

309 **ARTICLE VI**  
310 **ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

311 **SEC. 21. Compliance Notices and Corrective Orders. — (a) Compliance Notices.**  
312 — The Commission may issue compliance notices to covered digital platforms found to be in  
313 breach of any provision of this Act, requiring them to take specified corrective actions within  
314 a reasonable timeframe.

315 (b) **Corrective Orders.** — Where there is a substantial risk of serious harm to minors or  
316 repeated non-compliance, the Commission may issue corrective orders mandating  
317 specific changes to platform design, algorithms, features, or policies. In appropriate  
318 cases, the Commission may require the temporary disablement of certain functionalities  
319 for Philippine users until compliance is verified.

320 (c) **Takedown Orders.** — The Commission may order platforms to remove or disable  
321 access to specific content that constitutes harmful online content or practice directed at  
322 children. Takedown orders shall identify the content and explain the grounds. Platforms  
323 shall comply promptly, but may seek review under Section 24.

324 **SEC. 22. Administrative Fines.** — Platforms that violate this Act, including failure to  
325 prevent account creation by minors, breach of the duty of care, or non-compliance with  
326 Commission orders, may be subjected to fines not exceeding the higher of:

327 (a) Four percent (4%) of the platform's annual gross revenue in the Philippines for the  
328 preceding year; or

329 (b) Two billion Philippine pesos (₱2,000,000,000).

330 The Commission shall consider the nature, gravity, frequency, and duration of the  
331 violation, and the platform's financial capacity, when determining fines. Fines collected shall  
332 accrue to an Online Safety Fund administered by the Commission to support enforcement,  
333 education, and assistance programs under this Act.

334 **SEC. 23. Daily Penalties.** — For continuing violations after receipt of a compliance  
335 notice or order, platforms may be subject to daily penalties not exceeding five million  
336 Philippine pesos (₱5,000,000) for each day of non-compliance.

337 **SEC. 24. Appeals and Judicial Review.** — Any person or entity aggrieved by a final  
338 order or decision of the Commission may file an appeal with the Court of Appeals within fifteen  
339 (15) days from receipt of the decision. The filing of an appeal shall not stay the execution of a  
340 compliance notice, corrective order, or takedown order, unless the court issues an injunction  
341 based on grave abuse of discretion or serious and irreparable damage. Decisions of the Court  
342 of Appeals may be appealed to the Supreme Court on questions of law.

343 **SEC. 25. Criminal Liability for Facilitating Online Sexual Exploitation.** — Nothing  
344 in this Act shall preclude the prosecution of any person, including platform employees, for  
345 criminal offenses involving online sexual abuse, child pornography, trafficking, or exploitation  
346 under the Republic Act No. 9775, otherwise known as the *Anti-Child Pornography Act*,  
347 Republic Act No. 10175, otherwise known as the *Cybercrime Prevention Act*, and other

348 applicable laws. The Commission shall refer suspected criminal matters to the appropriate law  
349 enforcement agencies.

350 **ARTICLE VII**  
351 **HUMAN-RIGHTS AND DUE PROCESS SAFEGUARDS**

352 **SEC. 26. Rights-Preserving Interpretation.** — All powers and functions under this  
353 Act shall be exercised in a manner consistent with the Bill of Rights, the United Nations  
354 Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other applicable human-rights standards. Measures  
355 taken by the Commission or platforms shall respect freedom of expression, privacy,  
356 association, and participation, subject only to such limitations as are lawful, necessary, and  
357 proportionate.

358 **SEC. 27. Due Process.** — (a) **Notice and Hearing.** — Platforms and individuals shall  
359 not be subject to administrative penalties or adverse rulings without notice and opportunity to  
360 be heard. The Commission shall adopt procedures ensuring transparency, impartiality, and  
361 fairness in investigations and enforcement.

362 (b) **Transparency of Decisions.** — Final decisions of the Commission imposing penalties  
363 or orders shall be published online with anonymization of personal data. The  
364 Commission shall provide summary explanations of the legal and factual bases for its  
365 decisions.

366 (c) **Child Participation.** — The Commission shall establish accessible mechanisms for  
367 children to submit complaints and feedback. Their views shall be considered in a  
368 manner appropriate to their age and maturity.

369 **SEC. 28. Confidentiality and Data Protection.** — The identity of children who report  
370 online harms or participate in Commission proceedings shall be kept confidential. Protective  
371 measures may include pseudonymization, closed hearings, and restricted disclosure.

372 In performing its functions, the Commission may request or share personal data only  
373 as necessary and proportionate, and in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise  
374 known as the *Data Privacy Act*, and related laws. The Commission shall issue guidelines on  
375 data handling, retention, and destruction

376 **SEC. 29. Child-Friendly Remedies.** — The Commission shall develop child-friendly  
377 procedures for reporting online harms and seeking remedies. Platforms shall also provide  
378 accessible complaint mechanisms for minors and designate child-protection focal points.

379 **ARTICLE VIII**  
380 **TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

381 **SEC. 30. Phased Implementation.** — (a) **Rule-Making.** — Within twelve (12)  
382 months from the effectivity of this Act, the Commission shall promulgate implementing rules  
383 and regulations (IRR), codes of practice, and standards necessary for the proper  
384 implementation of this Act. Such rules shall be subject to public consultation and shall take  
385 effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general  
386 circulation.

387 (b) **Platform Registration.** — High-risk social media platforms shall register with the  
388 Commission within six (6) months from the effectivity of the IRR, submit their risk  
389 assessments, and comply with age-assurance requirements within twelve (12) months  
390 thereafter.

391 (c) **Transitional Arrangements for Existing Minors' Accounts.** — Platforms shall,  
392 within nine (9) months from the effectivity of the IRR, conduct age-assurance checks  
393 on existing Philippine accounts and, where necessary, transition minors to youth  
394 accounts or request parental supervision. Until completion, existing accounts of minors  
395 shall remain active under enhanced safety settings.

396 **SEC. 31. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of  
397 this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DICT or any available  
398 savings. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this  
399 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

400 **SEC. 32. Online Safety Fund.** — There is hereby created an Online Safety Fund, to  
401 be administered by the Commission, composed of:

- 402 (a) Fines and penalties collected under this Act;
- 403 (b) Grants, donations, and endowments from domestic or foreign sources, subject to  
404 existing laws;
- 405 (c) Appropriations under the General Appropriations Act; and
- 406 (d) Other income authorized by law.

407 The fund shall be used exclusively for online safety programs, enforcement activities,  
408 research, education, assistance to victims of online harms, and operational expenses of the  
409 Commission.

410 **SEC. 33. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared  
411 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected shall remain in full force and  
412 effect.

413 **SEC. 34. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
414 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or  
415 modified accordingly. Nothing in this Act shall repeal or amend existing laws on child  
416 protection, data privacy, cybercrime, or intellectual property, unless expressly stated.

417 **SEC. 35. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
418 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

419 *Approved,*