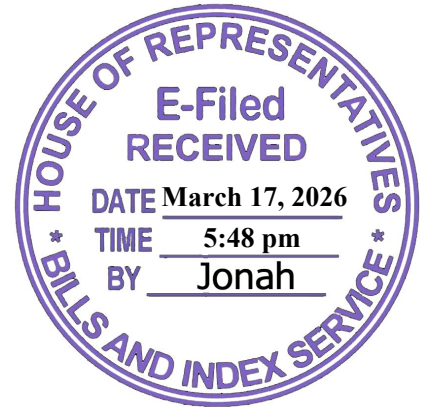


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8638



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to promote safe online spaces for all users of social media applications and digital platforms, especially children and the youth, by establishing clear government guidelines on responsible digital engagement and strengthening parental awareness.

The rapid expansion of mobile, gaming, and interactive applications with social interaction capabilities has transformed how Filipinos communicate, learn, and entertain themselves. However, these platforms also expose users, particularly minors, to obscene, discriminatory, exploitative, and other harmful content. The absence of standardized safeguards and coordinated public education efforts has left many families unprepared to address the risks associated with unrestricted digital access.

This measure mandates the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the National Privacy Commission (NPC), to develop and implement guidelines promoting responsible online behavior.

Recognizing the crucial role of parents and guardians, the bill institutionalizes a Mandatory Parental Awareness and Information Drive. Local Government Units shall require parents and guardians to complete a program on the dangers of children's unrestricted access to digital platforms before enrolling their children in early education programs.

By promoting responsible digital use and strengthening parental involvement, this bill advances the State's constitutional duty to protect the physical, moral, intellectual, and social well-being of its citizens in the digital age.

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


HON. ERIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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House Bill No. **8638**

Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

AN ACT
PROMOTING SAFE ONLINE SPACES FOR ALL MOBILE MULTIMEDIA
APPLICATIONS AND DIGITAL PLATFORMS USERS

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 “*Safe Online Spaces Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is a constitutionally declared policy of the State to promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of its citizens, especially the youth. To breathe life to this provision, the State shall promote the responsible use of all social media applications and digital platforms.

SEC. 3. *Promotion of Safe Online Spaces.* — The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and National Privacy Commission (NPC), shall develop, adopt and implement guidelines for all social media and digital platforms, including mobile, gaming and interactive applications with social interactions capability downloadable in the country, promoting responsible usage, such as avoidance of language otherwise considered as obscene, improper, discriminatory, profanity-laced, indecent, intemperate and offensive. This shall include regulation on the ability to share, within these applications and platforms, contents which are explicit, exploitative and immoral.

An indispensable part of such guidelines shall be the mandatory short prompt notification on all social media and digital platforms, including mobile, gaming and interactive applications with social interactions capability, forewarning users that these apps may expose them to conversations, exchanges and interactions containing obscene, improper and offensive language, lascivious videos and graphic contents. Such a prompt shall appear on the screen once the user opens the app for the first time in a day.

SEC. 4. *Mandatory Parental Awareness and Information Drive.* — The Local Government Units (LGUs) through the Rural or City Health Units and the Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD) through the Day Care Centers, are hereby directed to spearhead the implementation of the Mandatory Parental Awareness and Information Drive for parents and guardians. Parents or guardians shall be required to attend and complete a program on the dangers of children having unrestricted access to all social media and digital platforms, including mobile, gaming and interactive applications with social interactions. This shall be mandatory before their children be allowed to enroll in any early education program, both in public and in private sectors.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in close coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and with the help of National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and National Privacy Commission (NPC) shall create, develop, furnish and distribute materials for this program on responsible use of social media applications other digital platforms.

The Department of Education (DepEd) is also directed to include the Parental Awareness and Information Drive on their agenda during Parents-Teachers Association meetings for elementary and secondary levels of education.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* — The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with the appropriate government agencies, including the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Education (DepEd), the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and National Privacy Commission (NPC), and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,