



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8756

Introduced by
**REPRESENTATIVES GERALD CLOYD ALEXIS V. GALANG,
ELIJAH R. SAN FERNANDO, CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ,
MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON, NATHANIEL M. ODUCAO, and
NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Unregulated digital media consumption has been a major challenge faced by the Philippines specifically in protecting its young Filipino citizens. Being one of the most digitally engaged nations worldwide, Filipino minors are experiencing screen exposure at rates that far exceed the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended standard screen time, creating significant risks to their developmental, psychological, and physical well-being¹.

This legislative proposal acknowledges the valuable opportunities that digital technologies offer for education and social interaction. However, existing regulatory policies are insufficient to safeguard vulnerable populations from harmful online content, predatory behavior, and the addictive design methods integrated in social media platforms².

Research indicates that Filipino children less than one year old already have access to smartphones and exposure to these has been associated with delays in language, reduced attention, and disrupted social and emotional development³. Existing legislation on child protection to digital threats are still insufficient and regulatory standards on digital safety measures for digital media companies are still inadequate.

¹ A. B. Dy, Rethinking Screen Time for Filipino Children and Adolescents: Impacts on Development, *Ateneo Center for Research and Innovation*, 2025, <https://www.acri.ph/content/rethinking-screen-time-for-filipino-children-and-adolescents>

² UNICEF Philippines, *Philippines Kids Online: The Online Experiences of Children in the Philippines – Opportunities, Risks and Barriers*. UNICEF Philippines, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media/2706/file/UNIPH2021-PhilippinesKidsOnline-FullReport.pdf>

³ A. D. G. Capulong, J. A. Clemente, Digital media practices among infants and toddlers based on Filipino mothers' self-reports, *Plaridel*, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.52518/2023-03eplcmi>

This initiative seeks to protect childhood development without compromising the learning opportunities and restraining youth's participation in digital spaces. By formulating mandatory verification and parental authorization systems, imposing clear regulatory requirements to social media platform providers, this Act provides a framework for meaningful child protection in the digital age.

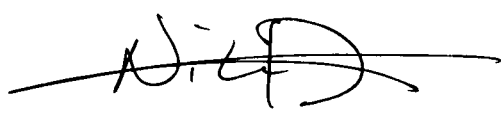
Hence, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



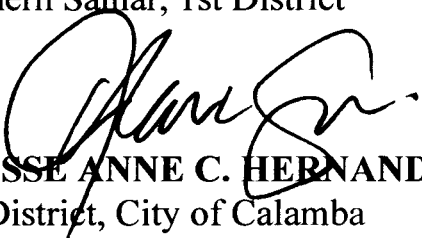
REP. ELIJAH R. SAN FERNANDO
KAMANGGAGAWA Party-list



REP. NATHANIEL M. ODUCADO
ITAHANAN Party-list



REP. NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA
Northern Samar, 1st District



REP. CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ
Lone District, City of Calamba



REP. MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party-list



REP. GERALD CLOYD ALEXIS V. GALANG
2nd Legislative District, City of Valenzuela



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NIKO RAUL S.J. DAZA, and RENEE LOUISE M. CO**

AN ACT
**ESTABLISHING SAFEGUARDS FOR THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY MINORS,
PROMOTING A SAFE AND AGE-APPROPRIATE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT,
AND PROTECTING MINORS FROM DIGITAL ADDICTION, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

*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 "Internet Safety and
Protection of Minors Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration. It is the policy of the State to promote the physical,
mental, and emotional well-being of the youth by safeguarding them from online
risks and harmful content and the adverse effects of digital addiction, while
ensuring their right to information and communication is respected through the
provision of a safe and age-appropriate online environment, in line with the best
interests of the child as recognized under the United Nations Convention on the
Rights of the Children and Philippine laws.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.

- a. **Minors** refers to person below eighteen (18) years of age
- b. **Adult in Need of Protection** refers to person over but are unable to fully
take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect,
cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental
disability or condition;
- c. **Social media platform** refers to any digital, electronic, or internet-based
service, system, network, application, website, or computer program that
is intended to provide a service that satisfies the following conditions:

- i. Its purpose is to enable online social interaction between two or more end-users;
- ii. It allows end-users to link to, or interact with, some or all of the other end-users; and
- iii. It allows end-users to upload or post online content or materials on it.

For purposes of this Act, a service shall be considered a Social Media Platform regardless of whether social interaction is its sole, primary, substantial, or incidental function.

c. **Social media platform providers** refer to entities that own and operate social media platforms.

d. **Third-party age verification providers** refer to entities that provide age verification systems in social media platforms.

SEC. 4. Use of Social Media Platform and Age Restrictions. Minors aged thirteen (13) to below eighteen (18) may be granted limited access to social media platforms, subject to the following conditions:

- a. Verified parental or, in the absence of the parents, guardian consent must be secured prior to account activation.
- b. Social media platforms shall implement and maintain age-appropriate design and operational measures for minor users, including:
 - i. Default maximum privacy settings;
 - ii. Restrictions on contact or interaction from unknown or unverified users
 - iii. Limitations on public visibility of user-generated content; Prohibitions on targeted advertising based on profiling of minor users; and
 - iv. Content filtering and curation mechanisms reasonably designed to prevent exposure to harmful or age-inappropriate material.

Minors below thirteen (13) years old shall be prohibited from registering and using social media accounts, unless for supervised educational purposes as authorized by the Department of Education (DepEd).

SEC. 5. Duties of Social Media Platform Providers. Social media platform providers shall provide reliable age verification measures in their platforms to prevent minors from registering, accessing, or continuing to use their social media service. They shall:

- a. Adopt reliable means to ensure the age and identity of its users, such as but not limited to ID verification, facial recognition, and other identity authentication systems;
- b. Provide content filtering tools and/or parental control features to users, and ensure these are accessible, functional, and clearly explained to them;
- c. Conduct regular audits of user account data to detect and remove age restricted users from the platform; and
- d. Adopt prompt response mechanisms for reports or findings of minors on the platform.

SEC. 6. Data Privacy. Any personal information collected by social media platforms or third-party age verification providers for the purpose of implementing

age verification measures and complying with age restriction requirements shall be subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and all other applicable data protection laws, rules and regulations.

Violation of this provision shall subject the social media platform providers or third-party age verification providers to penalties under the Data Privacy Act and any other administrative, civil, or criminal penalties as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 7. *Anti-Digital Addiction Program.* The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), National Youth Commission (NYC), and other relevant agencies shall launch awareness campaigns and school-based programs to educate the youth and their parents about the signs, risks, and remedies of digital overuse and its links to mental and physical health issues as well as the proper and regulated use of social media.

SEC. 8. *Mandatory Design-Based Anti-Digital Addiction Safeguards.* Social media platforms shall implement and enforce mandatory safeguards embedded within their systems and services to prevent excessive or addictive use by minors, including default daily time limits with automatic session suspension upon reaching such limits, periodic break prompts during extended use, nighttime access restrictions, the disabling by default of autoplay, infinite scroll, and similar engagement-maximizing features, and the visible display of real-time usage duration within the user interface

All safeguards shall be enabled by default and shall not depend solely on user activation. Failure to comply with this Section shall constitute a violation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Role of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.* The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall serve as the primary implementing agency of this Act. In line with this mandate, the DICT shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Monitor compliance of social media platforms and third-party age verification service providers with age restrictions, identity verification protocols, and other requirements under this Act;
- b. Establish reporting mechanisms for violations of this Act;
- c. Conduct investigations, motu proprio or upon complaint, on alleged violations of this Act;
- d. Issue Disabling Orders directing the takedown, removal, or deactivation of accounts found in violation of age restrictions;
- e. Impose penalties in accordance with Section 9 of this Act; and
- f. Coordinate with relevant government agencies, including the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), National Privacy Commission (NPC), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and DepEd, to ensure consistent, child-sensitive, and effective enforcement of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Disabling of Unauthorized Minor Accounts.* Social media platform providers shall automatically detect, remove, or deactivate accounts owned or used by minors in violation of this Act.

Upon receiving verified information or a complaint from the public or a government agency, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) may issue a Disabling Order, requiring the platform to disable the identified account within seventy-two (72) hours.

Within three (3) days after the issuance of the Disabling Order, the DICT shall inform the NTC, which shall monitor the social media platform provider's compliance.

SEC. 11. *Penalties.* Any social media platform provider, or third-party age verification provider that fails to comply with any provision of this Act, including but not limited to the failure to implement adequate age verification systems, refusal to comply with a Disabling Order, or unauthorized retention or misuse of personal data collected under this Act, shall be subject to the following administrative penalties, without prejudice to any civil or criminal liability under existing laws:

a. For Social Media Platform Providers:

- i. A fine of not less than One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000) but not exceeding Twenty Million Pesos (Php 20,000,000) for each act of non-compliance, depending on the gravity and frequency of the violation;
- ii. A fine of not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000) for each day of continuing violation after due notice;
- iii. Suspension or revocation of access, operations, or licenses within the Philippines upon a finding of gross negligence, repeated non-compliance, or willful violation, subject to due process.

b. For Third-Party Age Verification Providers:

- i. A fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00) but not more than Five Million Pesos (Php 5,000,000) for breach of data privacy provisions or failure to meet verification standards under this Act;
- ii. Permanent disqualification from providing related services to social media platforms operating in the Philippines upon a finding of gross negligence, repeated non-compliance, or willful misconduct, subject to due process.

The imposition of the above penalties shall be without prejudice to prosecution under the Data Privacy Act of 2012, the Republic Act No. 10175 Otherwise known as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, or any other applicable penal law.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT, in consultation with the NTC, NPC, DSWD, and DepEd and other relevant stakeholders shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* Should any provision or part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions and parts hereof, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,