

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8912



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SAFETY INTERNET EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE
CURRICULUM OF ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In an era where the boundary between the physical and digital worlds has effectively dissolved, the "Internet Safety Education Act" (ISEA) represents a foundational necessity for national security, public health, and social cohesion. As technology evolves from a peripheral tool into the very infrastructure of human interaction, the implementation of a structured Internet Safety Education Program (ISEP) is an essential evolution of the modern school curriculum.

While modern children are often called "digital natives," there is a dangerous misconception that technical proficiency—the ability to navigate an app or post a video—equates to digital literacy. Access does not guarantee awareness. The ISEA addresses this gap by mandating a research-based program that moves beyond simple mechanics to focus on the ethical and critical understanding of the web.

The proposed bill recognizes that the internet is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it represents almost limitless opportunity—instant access to global knowledge and community. On the other hand, the risks associated with this technological tool must also be at the forefront of legislation: exposure to cyberbullying, misinformation, predatory grooming, and data privacy breaches.

By formalizing education through the Department of Education (DepEd), the state acknowledges that protecting children in the 21st century requires a shift from passive monitoring to active empowerment.

One of the most pragmatic strengths of the proposed bill lies in Section 3, which emphasizes the training of educators and administrators. Often, the students' tech-savviness outpaces the faculty's understanding of "New

Media.” By providing professional training and peer-driven initiatives, the proposed law ensures that the guidance students receive is current, relevant, and authoritative.

Furthermore, the bill’s commitment to funding research initiatives is a forward-thinking move. Technology moves faster than legislation; by embedding a mechanism for continuous research into online risks, the ISEP can remain agile and adaptive rather than becoming a static, outdated document.

Internet safety cannot be confined to the classroom. The proposed legislation also includes provisions for educating parents and launching public awareness campaigns. This creates a “360-degree” safety net. When a child encounters a risk—be it a phishing scam or an instance of online harassment—the consistency of the message across school and home environments ensures a more effective response. The bill transforms internet safety from a private parental struggle into a shared societal responsibility.

In a world where digital footprints are permanent and online interactions have real-world consequences, we can no longer afford to let our youth navigate the digital wilderness without a compass. This bill provides that compass, ensuring that the next generation is not just connected, but protected, ethical, and informed.

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



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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “Internet Safety Education Act.”

Sec. 2. Internet Safety Education Program (ISEP). - The Department of Education (DepEd) shall, within (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, formulate, develop and implement an ISEP. The ISEP shall be a research-based program that encourages safe, ethical and responsible use of the Internet, promote an informed and critical understanding of the Internet and educate children and communities about how to prevent or respond to problems or dangers related to the Internet or new media.

Sec. 3. Implementation. - In order to ensure the efficiency and effectivity of the ISEP, the DepEd shall:

- a) Identify, develop and implement an educational technology, multimedia and interactive applications, online resources and lesson plans for ISEP;
- b) Provide professional training to elementary and secondary teachers, administrators and other staff on internet safety and New Media literacy. For the purposes of this Act, New Media is defined as an emerging, digital, computerized or network informed and communication technologies that often have interactive capacities. This includes email, instant messaging, text messaging, websites, blogs, interactive gaming, social media, cellphones and mobile devices.
- c) Develop online risk prevention programs for children;

- d) Train and support peer-driven internet safety education initiatives;
- e) Coordinate and fund research initiatives that investigate online risks to promote awareness of online risks to children and internet safety education;
- f) Develop and implement public education campaigns to promote awareness of online risks to children and internet safety education;
- g) Educate parents about teaching their children to use the internet and new media safely, responsibly and ethically and help parents identify and protect their children from risks relating to use of the internet and new media; and
- h) The Secretary shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and regulations, including those of disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 4. Appropriations. - The initial amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, shall be charged against the current budget of the DepEd. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision or section of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions and sections not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders or issuances or any part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,