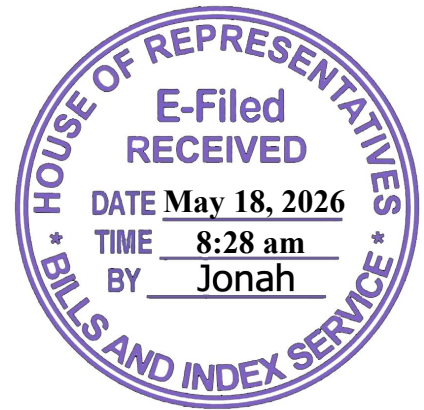


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9271

**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES LANI MERCADO-REVILLA,
BRYAN B. REVILLA AND RAMON JOLO REVILLA III**

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING DIGITAL LITERACY AND FUTURE SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATION SYSTEM AND FOR ALL
FILIPINOS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The rapid acceleration of the digital revolution and the lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic have highlighted the immediate need to equip every Filipino with essential Digital Literacy and Future Skills. Digital literacy, defined as the broad set of competencies necessary to use digital media, computers, and information technologies effectively and safely, is no longer a luxury but a fundamental requirement for social inclusion and economic competitiveness. Given the continuous rise globally in time spent online and on social media, international efforts are being accelerated to the development of these digital skill set, coupled with the ability for careful discernment.

This legislative measure is, therefore, an important step in preparing the country for the demands of the global digital economy.

This Bill, the "Digital Literacy Act of 2025," aims to institutionalize digital literacy and future skills development to improve the competencies of Filipinos to integrate into, and operate within, a rapidly evolving, technology-driven society. It ensures that no Filipino child misses out on their basic right to education, which increasingly relies on digital technology, while simultaneously upskilling the adult workforce and keeping them relevant for the future of work and their ability to access goods and services digitally.

This Bill draws inspiration from significant legislative efforts in both houses of Congress, including House Bill No. 166 (National Digital Skills and AI Readiness Act of 2025) and House Bill No. 4814 (Samar ICT Education and Digital Literacy Act), both filed during the 20th Congress, as well as Senate Bill No. 709 (Social Media Awareness in Schools and Universities Act of 2022) from the previous Congress. The core objective is to ensure that all Filipinos are equipped with the digital literacy and future skills necessary to participate fully, responsibly, and ethically in the global digital economy and information society.

Building upon these proposals, this Act adopts and refines the following key measures:

a) Including digital literacy and future skills in the curriculum, expanded to include technical-vocational education.

b) Integrating basic digital literacy in the National Service Training Program (NSTP) (*Note: The term “Social media awareness” is replaced with the broader term “digital literacy and future skills” in this measure*).

c) Establishing Digital Literacy and Future Skills Centers that utilize existing public places, such as libraries, malls, universities and colleges, and cultural centers.

To further achieve the aforementioned objective, the following new measures are also proposed:

a) Launching a mobile training program (Digital Literacy on Wheels) to reach geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

b) Creating an Inter-Agency Task Force on Digital Literacy and Future Skills.

c) Declaring December 2nd of every year as “Digital Literacy Day” (*Note: This date aligns with the globally observed World Computer Literacy Day and similar national initiatives, such as the Singapore Digital Literacy Day*).

By strengthening digital competency and ensuring access to future skills training for all, this Bill promotes a more resilient, capable, and united Filipino citizenry. Digital empowerment strengthens the Filipino family and the nation by boosting communication, creating economic opportunities, and helping everyone thrive in the modern world.

In light of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this Bill is respectfully requested.

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REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
2nd District of Cavite



REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA
AGIMAT Partylist



REP. RAMON JOLO REVILLA III
1st District of Cavite

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING DIGITAL LITERACY AND FUTURE SKILLS
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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 “Digital Literacy Act of 2025.”

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of information and communication technology (ICT), education, and communication in nation-building, social progress, and human development. It is the declared policy of the State to ensure that all Filipinos are equipped with the digital literacy and future skills necessary to participate fully, responsibly, and ethically in the global digital economy and information society. The State shall prioritize inculcating the virtues of discernment, critical thinking, responsible digital citizenship, and ethical use of digital platforms.

SEC 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

a) *Digital Literacy* refers to the ability to access, manage, understand, integrate, communicate, evaluate, and create information safely and appropriately using digital technology. It encompasses competences related to computer literacy, ICT literacy, information literacy, media literacy, and digital citizenship.

b) *Future Skills* refer to advanced digital and technical competencies critical for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including, but not limited to, digital coding, digital marketing, data science, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity.

SEC 4. *Inclusion of Digital Literacy and Future Skills in the Curriculum.* –

The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall formulate, develop, and integrate a comprehensive and progressive curriculum on Digital Literacy and Future Skills in the basic, higher, and technical-vocational education curricula. This curriculum shall be periodically reviewed and updated to include emerging Future Skills.

SEC 5. *Basic Digital Literacy in the National Service Training Program (NSTP).* – Basic digital literacy shall be made an integral and mandatory component of the National Service Training Program (NSTP), specifically in the Literacy Training Service (LTS) and the Civil Welfare Training Service (CWTS) components.

Prior to deployment, NSTP students shall be equipped with the skills to effectively teach basic digital literacy and future skills to communities.

SEC 6. *Access to Digital Learning Resources.* – The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall provide or facilitate access to necessary software, hardware, and internet connectivity to all public school students and teachers across the country. This shall include, but not limited to, the provision of modern digital learning devices and sufficient internet access to support the effective integration of the Digital Literacy and Future Skills curriculum.

SEC 7. *Establishment of Digital Literacy and Future Skills Development Center.* – The TESDA, in collaboration with the DICT, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other relevant stakeholders, shall establish a Digital Literacy and Future Skills Development Center in every region of the Philippines, aimed at providing free seminars, trainings, and certification programs on Digital Literacy and Future Skills. These centers shall be established in easily accessible public facilities, such as libraries, malls, universities and colleges, cultural centers, or equivalent existing centers.

To promote inclusivity and lifelong digital upskilling, the centers shall offer both on-site and accessible online learning options catering to all Filipinos, particularly underserved groups such as Overseas Filipino Workers, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and out-of-school youth.

SEC 8. *Digital Literacy on Wheels.* – The DICT and TESDA, in coordination with local government units, shall jointly establish a “Digital Literacy on Wheels” program utilizing mobile training facilities. This program shall complement the Digital Literacy and Future Skills Development Centers by reaching geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas to provide localized, hands-on training in digital literacy to underserved communities.

SEC 9. *Creation of Inter-Agency Task Force on Digital Literacy and Future Skills.* – An Inter-Agency Task Force on Digital Literacy and Future Skills (IATF-DLFS) is hereby created to ensure the effective and coordinated implementation of this Act. The IATF-DLFS shall be chaired by the Secretary of the

DICT, with the Secretaries of the DepEd and DILG, and the Chairpersons of CHED and TESDA as members. The Task Force shall be responsible for policy formulation, program monitoring, and securing necessary funding.

SEC 10. *Digital Literacy Day.* – To further promote Digital Literacy and Future Skills Development, the second of December of every year is hereby declared as “Digital Literacy Day” in the Philippines.

SEC 11. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the IATF-DLFS shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC 14. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,