

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 9959



Introduced by Representative
BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ETHICS
ADVISORY BOARD UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, DEFINING ITS
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK
FOR THE ETHICAL GOVERNANCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is among the world's fastest-growing digital economies and stands to benefit significantly from AI adoption across government, business, agriculture, manufacturing, education, healthcare, and the business process outsourcing sector. However, the country currently lacks a centralized institutional mechanism dedicated to examining the ethical implications of Artificial Intelligence and providing coherent policy guidance across sectors.

As AI technologies become more integrated into Philippine society, the absence of a national ethical governance framework risks creating fragmented policies, regulatory uncertainty, and insufficient safeguards for Filipino citizens. Questions surrounding algorithmic fairness, data privacy, synthetic media, automated decision-making, labor transitions, and the use of AI in public services require sustained multidisciplinary expertise that extends beyond the mandates of existing agencies.

This measure seeks to establish the Philippine Artificial Intelligence Ethics Advisory Board (PAIEAB) under the Office of the President as the country's principal advisory and coordinating body on AI ethics and governance. By bringing together government agencies, industry leaders, scientists, academics, legal experts, civil society organizations, labor representatives, and the youth sector, the Board shall provide a whole-of-nation approach to addressing the opportunities and risks presented by AI technologies.

The proposed Board shall formulate a National AI Ethics Framework, conduct stakeholder consultations, monitor emerging technological developments, recommend policy safeguards, and advise government institutions on issues involving transparency, accountability, fairness, human dignity, and public welfare in the deployment of AI systems.

The establishment of the Philippine Artificial Intelligence Ethics Board represents an investment not only in technological governance but also in public trust. Responsible innovation requires institutions capable of ensuring that technological progress remains aligned with democratic values, human rights, and the long-term interests of the Filipino people.

In consideration of the foregoing, the prompt approval of this bill is respectfully urged.


HON. BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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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 “Philippine Artificial Intelligence Ethics Advisory Board Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State recognizes that Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents unprecedented opportunities to improve public services, strengthen economic competitiveness, advance scientific research, promote innovation, and improve the quality of life of Filipinos.

The State likewise recognizes that AI raises significant ethical considerations involving human dignity, privacy, fairness, transparency, accountability, democratic governance, labor, education, public safety, national security, and fundamental rights.

It is therefore the policy of the State to promote the ethical, responsible, transparent, inclusive, and human-centered development, deployment, and use of Artificial Intelligence and to ensure that such technologies remain aligned with the values, interests, and welfare of the Filipino people.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — For purposes of this Act:

- (a) **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** refers to machine-based systems that can infer from inputs how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that influence real or virtual environments;
- (b) **Ethical Governance** refers to the application of principles, standards, and oversight mechanisms that ensure AI systems are developed and used in a manner consistent with human rights, public welfare, accountability, fairness, transparency, and the rule of law;
- (c) **High-Risk AI System** refers to any AI application that may significantly affect the rights, safety, opportunities, or welfare of individuals or communities.

SECTION 4. Creation of the Philippine Artificial Intelligence Ethics Board. – There is hereby created the Philippine Artificial Intelligence Ethics Advisory Board (PAIEAB), hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall serve as the principal advisory body of the President on ethical issues relating to Artificial Intelligence.

The Board shall be attached to the Office of the President for administrative supervision and policy coordination.

SECTION 5. Composition. – The Board shall consist of twenty-one (21) members, composed as follows:

A. Government Representatives

1. Executive Secretary or authorized representative, as Chairperson;
2. Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology;
3. Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology;
4. Secretary of the Department of Economy, Planning and Development;
5. Secretary of the Department of Justice;
6. Secretary of the Department of National Defense and
7. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry.

B. Private Sector Expert Representatives

To be appointed by the President from nominees submitted by recognized organizations representing:

1. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning;
2. Information Technology and Software Development;
3. Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure;
4. Financial Technology;
5. Healthcare and Biotechnology;
6. Manufacturing and Industry; and
7. Startup and Innovation Ecosystems.

C. Civil Society, Academic, and Professional Expert Representatives

1. A representative from a digital rights or technology governance organization;

2. A representative from a consumer protection organization;
3. A representative from a labor organization;
4. A representative from academia with expertise in AI;
5. A representative from the legal profession with expertise in technology law;
6. A representative from the scientific and research community; and
7. A representative from the youth sector.

SECTION 6. Terms of Office. – Non-government members shall serve for a term of three (3) years and may be reappointed for one (1) additional term.

SECTION 7. Powers and Functions. – The Board shall:

- (a) Formulate and periodically update a Philippine AI Ethics Framework;
- (b) Advise the President, Congress, national government agencies, local government units, state universities and colleges, and government-owned and controlled corporations on ethical issues relating to AI;
- (c) Study and evaluate the ethical implications of emerging AI technologies;
- (d) Recommend principles, guidelines, and best practices for the ethical development and use of AI;
- (e) Conduct consultations with stakeholders from government, industry, academia, civil society, and affected sectors;
- (f) Promote transparency, fairness, accountability, inclusiveness, and respect for human dignity in AI systems;
- (g) Examine ethical issues relating to privacy, algorithmic bias, misinformation, synthetic media, labor displacement, education, healthcare, public safety, and national security;
- (h) Encourage public awareness and understanding of AI ethics;
- (i) Provide expert guidance to all government entities in crafting internal ethical AI-usage policies based on the Philippine AI Ethics Framework
- (j) Regularly review government entities' internal ethical AI-usage policies
- (k) Establish technical working groups and expert panels as may be necessary; and
- (l) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 8. National AI Ethics Framework. – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall formulate a National AI Ethics Framework to serve as a guide for government agencies, educational institutions, private entities, and other stakeholders involved in the development or use of AI technologies.

SECTION 9. Technical Working Groups. – The Board may establish Technical Working Groups on specialized topics, including:

- (a) AI and Human Rights;
- (b) AI and Democratic Governance;
- (c) AI and Education;
- (d) AI and Labor;
- (e) AI and Healthcare;
- (f) AI and National Security;
- (g) AI and Emerging Technologies; and
- (h) Such other areas as the Board may deem necessary.

SECTION 10. Annual Report. – The Board shall submit an Annual Report to the President and Congress detailing:

- (a) Emerging ethical issues relating to AI;
- (b) Developments in AI governance and international best practices;
- (c) Recommendations for legislation and public policy; and
- (d) The activities and accomplishments of the Board.

SECTION 11. Secretariat. – The Office of the President shall establish a Secretariat to provide technical, legal, administrative, and research support to the Board.

SECTION 12. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned agencies under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,


HON. BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List