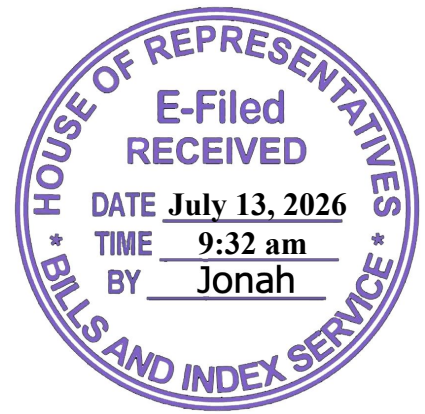


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10049



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The internet has become an indispensable tool for education, communication, and daily life. However, the digital landscape also exposes young learners to severe risks, including cyberbullying, online scams, identity theft, exposure to age-inappropriate content, and online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

While students are highly adept at navigating digital interfaces, they often lack the critical thinking skills and psychological readiness to identify digital threats, protect their personal data, and practice responsible digital citizenship. Leaving digital literacy entirely to parental supervision is no longer sufficient, as many parents struggle to keep pace with rapid technological advancements. A structured, proactive approach is necessary.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a Safe Internet Education Program within the mandatory curriculum of all public and private elementary and secondary schools. By integrating age-appropriate lessons on digital safety, data privacy, and online ethics into existing subjects, we empower the next generation to navigate the digital world safely, responsibly, and productively.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10049

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SAFE INTERNET EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE
CURRICULUM OF ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

*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 "Safe Internet Education Act."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of the youth. Recognizing the vital role of information and communications technology in nation-building, the State shall ensure that children are provided with the necessary knowledge and skills to shield themselves from online hazards and become responsible digital citizens.

Sec. 3. *Establishment of the Safe Internet Education Program.* – There is hereby established a Safe Internet Education Program (SIEP), which shall be integrated into the mandatory curriculum of all public and private elementary and secondary schools in the country.

Sec. 4. *Core Content of the Program.*– The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall develop an age-appropriate curriculum that covers, but is not limited to, the following core areas:

- Digital Citizenship and Netiquette: Responsible online behavior, respectful communication, and understanding the permanent nature of the "digital footprint."
- Online Privacy and Security: The importance of strong passwords, protecting personal identifiable information (PII), and recognizing phishing, malware, and social engineering tactics.

- Cyberbullying Prevention: Identifying online harassment, reporting mechanisms, mental health support, and promoting empathy online.
- Critical Thinking and Media Literacy: Recognizing fake news, evaluating online sources, and understanding the risks of online misinformation.
- Protection Against Online Exploitation: Awareness of the tactics used by online predators, grooming signs, and immediate reporting procedures for child exploitation.

Sec. 5. *Integration into Existing Subjects.*— To prevent curriculum overload, the SIEP shall be integrated into relevant existing subjects, such as Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao (EsP), Media and Information Literacy (MIL), Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE), or their equivalent counterpart subjects in the revised basic education curriculum.

Sec. 6. *Teacher Training and Capacity Building.* — The DepEd, through the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) and in partnership with the DICT, shall conduct mandatory training programs for teachers to equip them with the necessary knowledge and pedagogical skills to effectively teach the internet safety curriculum.

Sec. 7. *Parental and Community Involvement.*— Schools shall conduct annual or semi-annual seminars or workshops on internet safety for parents, guardians, and local community leaders to foster a collaborative environment in protecting children online.

Sec. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with the DICT, the National Privacy Commission (NPC), and relevant non-governmental organizations, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances, and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – 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,