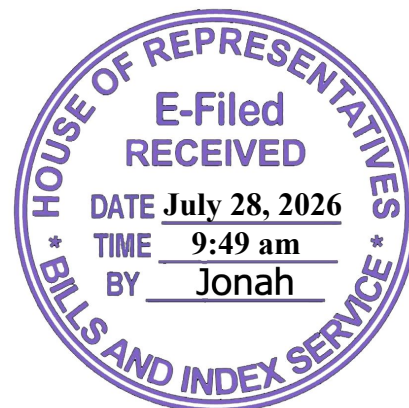


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10263



Introduced by

HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The digital age has fundamentally transformed the way Filipinos learn, communicate, conduct business, access government services, and participate in society. With the widespread availability of the internet, social media platforms, digital applications, and emerging technologies, digital tools have become an integral part of daily life. From education and employment to commerce and civic engagement, digital technologies now serve as essential instruments for personal and national development.

However, the increasing reliance on digital platforms also highlights the growing need for digital literacy among all Filipinos. While access to technology continues to expand, many individuals still lack the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the digital environment safely, responsibly, and effectively. The ability to use digital devices is no longer sufficient; citizens must also possess the capacity to critically evaluate information, protect their privacy and security, communicate respectfully online, understand their rights and responsibilities in digital spaces, and utilize technology in a productive and ethical manner.

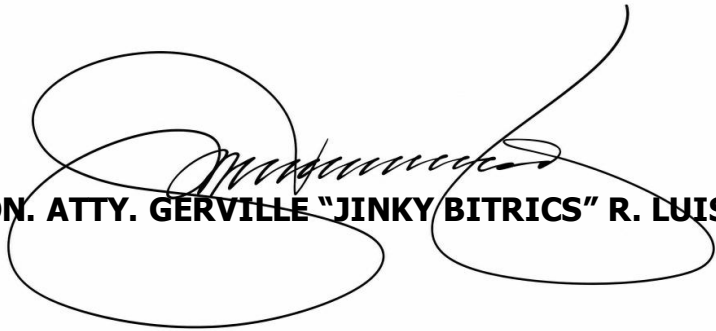
As more Filipinos engage in online activities, the consequences of irresponsible internet use become increasingly apparent. The careless sharing of unverified information, exposure to online scams and fraudulent schemes, cyberbullying, identity theft, privacy violations, and other harmful online practices underscore the need for greater awareness and education. Every internet user bears a corresponding

responsibility to exercise good judgment, respect others, safeguard personal information, and contribute positively to online communities.

Digital literacy is therefore not merely a technical skill but a fundamental life competency. It empowers individuals to become responsible digital citizens capable of making informed decisions, engaging constructively in online discourse, utilizing technology for learning and economic opportunities, and adapting to the demands of an increasingly digital society. It also strengthens national competitiveness by preparing the workforce for the digital economy and fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning.

Recognizing the vital role of digital literacy in nation-building, this measure seeks to establish a comprehensive national framework that promotes digital, media, and information literacy among Filipinos. It aims to cultivate responsible digital citizenship, encourage safe and ethical internet use, strengthen digital competencies across all sectors, and ensure that every Filipino is equipped to participate meaningfully and responsibly in the digital world.

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



HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY" BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

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AN ACT
PROMOTING DIGITAL, MEDIA, AND INFORMATION LITERACY AMONG
FILIPINOS, ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM,
STRENGTHENING RESPONSIBLE DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP, INTEGRATING
DIGITAL LITERACY IN EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
2 *Congress assembled:*
3

4 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the " Digital Literacy
5 Act of 2026."
6

7 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the
8 State to strengthen digital, media, and information literacy among Filipinos and to
9 promote responsible, ethical, and informed engagement in digital spaces. Towards
10 this end, the State shall encourage critical thinking, accountability, transparency, and
11 responsible communication in the use of digital technologies. It shall foster a culture
12 of discernment and responsible information sharing, while safeguarding freedom of
13 expression and the free exchange of ideas consistent with the Constitution. The State
14 shall likewise promote ethical conduct in digital environments and develop a digitally
15 literate citizenry capable of effectively accessing, evaluating, creating, and sharing
16 information, and of participating responsibly and productively in an increasingly digital
17 society.
18

19 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act:
20

(a) **Digital Literacy** refers to the ability to access, evaluate, analyze, create, and communicate information using digital technologies responsibly and effectively.

(b) **Media Literacy** refers to the ability to critically understand, evaluate, and assess information conveyed through various media platforms.

(c) **Information Literacy** refers to the ability to identify, locate, verify, evaluate, and use information effectively.

(d) **Misinformation** refers to false, inaccurate, misleading, manipulated, or unverified information that is shared or disseminated regardless of intent.

(e) **Disinformation** refers to false or misleading information deliberately created, altered, or disseminated to deceive the public.

(f) **Digital Platform** refers to any website, application, social media service, online forum, messaging service, content-sharing platform, or similar digital communication system.

(g) **Digital Citizenship** refers to responsible, ethical, and productive participation in digital environments.

(h) **Digital Safety** refers to practices that protect individuals from online risks, cyber threats, fraud, and harmful digital activities.

(i) **Digital Inclusion** refers to ensuring that all individuals have opportunities to acquire digital skills regardless of age, gender, income level, disability, geographic location, or social status.

(j) **Responsible Sharing** refers to the practice of verifying the accuracy, authenticity, and reliability of information prior to reposting, forwarding, distributing, or amplifying such information.

(k) **Fact-Checking** refers to the process of independently verifying the accuracy of information through reliable and credible sources.

SECTION 4. Establishment of the National Digital Literacy Program. -

There is hereby established a National Digital Literacy Program aimed at providing comprehensive digital literacy education and awareness initiatives for all Filipinos.

The Program shall serve as the primary framework for promoting digital literacy across all sectors of society.

SECTION 5. Core Components of Digital Literacy Education. - The Program shall include instruction, training, and awareness campaigns covering:

- (a) Basic digital skills and competencies;
- (b) Safe and responsible internet usage;
- (c) Cybersecurity awareness and cyber hygiene;
- (d) Data privacy and personal information protection;
- (e) Media and information literacy;
- (f) Critical thinking and content verification;
- (g) Detection of misinformation, disinformation, and manipulated content;
- (h) Responsible social media engagement;
- (i) Digital ethics and online conduct;
- (j) Digital rights and responsibilities;
- (k) Digital communication and collaboration;
- (l) Digital content creation and creativity;
- (m) Digital entrepreneurship and online economic participation;
- (n) Use of digital technologies for education and lifelong learning;
- (o) Accessibility and inclusive digital participation;
- (p) Awareness of emerging technologies and their societal implications; and
- (q) Other competencies necessary to promote responsible and productive digital engagement.

SECTION 6. Integration of Digital Literacy in Education. - Digital literacy education shall be progressively integrated into formal, non-formal, and alternative learning systems.

Educational institutions are encouraged to incorporate age-appropriate digital literacy instruction, critical thinking, media literacy, and responsible digital citizenship into their learning activities and programs.

SECTION 7. Community-Based Digital Literacy Centers. - Local government units are encouraged to establish community-based digital literacy

1 centers or designate existing facilities as venues for digital literacy learning activities.
2 Such centers may provide:

- 3
- 4 (a) Basic digital skills training;
- 5
- 6 (b) Digital safety seminars;
- 7
- 8 (c) Information verification workshops;
- 9
- 10 (d) Cybersecurity awareness sessions;
- 11
- 12 (e) Digital entrepreneurship education;
- 13
- 14 (f) Digital inclusion programs; and
- 15
- 16 (g) Other relevant learning activities.
- 17

18 Priority shall be given to underserved and disadvantaged communities.

19
20 **SECTION 8. National Public Awareness Campaign.** - A sustained
21 nationwide public awareness campaign shall be conducted to promote:

- 22 (a) Digital literacy;
- 23
- 24 (b) Responsible internet use;
- 25
- 26 (c) Verification of online information;
- 27
- 28 (d) Cybersecurity awareness;
- 29
- 30 (e) Protection against online scams and fraud;
- 31
- 32 (f) Privacy and data protection awareness;
- 33
- 34 (g) Responsible social media engagement; and
- 35
- 36 (h) Digital citizenship.
- 37

38 The campaign shall utilize television, radio, print media, digital platforms, public
39 spaces, and community outreach activities.

40
41 **SECTION 9. Digital Literacy Month.** - The month of June of every year is
42 hereby declared as National Digital Literacy Month.

43 During this period, government agencies, local government units, educational
44 institutions, private organizations, and civil society groups are encouraged to conduct
45 activities that promote digital literacy and responsible digital citizenship.
46

1 **SECTION 10. Digital Literacy for Vulnerable and Marginalized Sectors.**

- 2 - Special digital literacy initiatives shall be developed for:
- 3 (a) Senior citizens;
 - 4
 - 5 (b) Persons with disabilities;
 - 6
 - 7 (c) Indigenous peoples;
 - 8
 - 9 (d) Out-of-school youth;
 - 10
 - 11 (e) Rural communities;
 - 12
 - 13 (f) Low-income households;
 - 14
 - 15 (g) Women and girls;
 - 16
 - 17 (h) Overseas Filipino workers and their families; and
 - 18
 - 19 (i) Other vulnerable sectors.
 - 20

21 Programs shall be designed to address the unique needs and circumstances of
22 such groups.

23

24 **SECTION 11. Digital Literacy for Workers and Job Seekers.** - Programs
25 shall be developed to assist workers and job seekers in acquiring digital competencies
26 necessary for employment, remote work, digital entrepreneurship, and participation
27 in the digital economy.

28

29 **SECTION 12. Youth Digital Literacy Development.** - Special emphasis
30 shall be given to educating children and youth on:

- 31 (a) Online safety;
- 32
- 33 (b) Cyberbullying prevention;
- 34
- 35 (c) Digital ethics;
- 36
- 37 (d) Responsible social media use;
- 38
- 39 (e) Information verification;
- 40
- 41 (f) Digital rights and responsibilities;
- 42
- 43 (g) Safe content creation; and
- 44
- 45 (h) Productive use of digital technologies.
- 46
- 47

1 **SECTION 13. Partnerships with Stakeholders.** - The State may encourage
2 partnerships among government agencies, educational institutions, civil society
3 organizations, professional associations, media organizations, technology companies,
4 telecommunications providers, and other stakeholders to advance digital literacy
5 initiatives.

6
7 Such partnerships shall support the development of educational materials,
8 training programs, public awareness campaigns, research, and community outreach
9 activities.

10
11 **SECTION 14. National Digital Literacy Resource Hub.** - A National Digital
12 Literacy Resource Hub shall be established to provide free access to educational
13 materials, learning modules, guides, toolkits, research publications, and public
14 information resources relating to digital literacy.

15
16 Resources shall be made available in accessible formats and, whenever
17 practicable, in major Philippine languages.

18
19 **SECTION 15. Research and Development.** - The government shall support
20 research on:

- 21
22 (a) Digital literacy levels among Filipinos;
23
24 (b) Emerging digital risks and challenges;
25
26 (c) Online behavior and digital engagement trends;
27
28 (d) Effectiveness of digital literacy programs;
29
30 (e) Digital inclusion strategies; and
31
32 (f) Other matters necessary to strengthen digital literacy initiatives.

33
34
35 **SECTION 16. National Digital Literacy Survey.** - A periodic nationwide
36 assessment may be conducted to determine:

- 37
38 (a) Digital literacy levels;
39
40 (b) Digital access and inclusion gaps;
41
42 (c) Emerging educational needs;
43
44 (d) Vulnerable sectors requiring assistance; and
45
46 (e) The effectiveness of government interventions.

47
48 The results shall be used in improving and updating digital literacy programs.

1
2 **SECTION 17. Annual National Digital Literacy Summit.** - An annual
3 summit may be convened to gather representatives from government, academia,
4 industry, media organizations, civil society, and youth sectors to discuss
5 developments, best practices, innovations, and policy recommendations relating to
6 digital literacy.

7
8 **SECTION 18. Protection of Freedom of Expression.** - Nothing in this Act
9 shall be construed as authorizing censorship, prior restraint, content regulation, or
10 restrictions on lawful speech.

11
12 All programs and activities under this Act shall uphold freedom of expression,
13 academic freedom, freedom of the press, and other constitutionally protected rights.

14
15 **SECTION 19. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the initial
16 implementation of this Act shall be charged against available appropriations of the
17 concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued
18 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19
20 **SECTION 20. Implementing Agency.**— The Department of Information and
21 Communications Technology (DICT) shall serve as the lead implementing agency of
22 this Act and shall be responsible for the formulation, coordination, supervision,
23 monitoring, and evaluation of all programs, projects, and activities established herein.
24 The DICT shall coordinate with the Department of Education (DepEd) for the
25 integration of digital literacy in basic education; the Commission on Higher Education
26 (CHED) for the promotion of digital literacy initiatives in higher education institutions;
27 the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for technical-
28 vocational and workforce-oriented digital skills training; the National Library of the
29 Philippines (NLP) for information literacy programs and public access to learning
30 resources; the National Youth Commission (NYC) for youth-focused digital literacy
31 initiatives; the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) for nationwide public awareness
32 and information campaigns; and local government units (LGUs) for the implementation
33 of community-based digital literacy programs and outreach activities.

34
35 **SECTION 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90)
36 days from the effectivity of this Act, the appropriate government agencies shall
37 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
38 this Act.

39
40 **SECTION 22. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared
41 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain
42 in full force and effect.

43
44 **SECTION 23. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules
45 and regulations, ordinances, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with
46 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

1
2 **SECTION 24. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
3 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
4

5 Approved,