

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 10267

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FOR ACCESS TO SOCIAL
MEDIA PLATFORMS, REQUIRING AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES,
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Children today are growing up in a digital world where social media has become an integral part of their daily lives. While digital platforms provide new ways for learning, and communication, they also expose young users to cyberbullying, online sexual exploitation, disinformation, harmful content, privacy violations, and excessive screen use. As technology continues to evolve, the State must ensure that Filipino children are protected in a digital environment that is safe, secure, and appropriate for their age and development.

The need for stronger safeguards is highlighted by the increasing number of Filipino children who are active online. As of October 2025, the Philippines remains one of the world's most active social markets, with approximately 95.8 million social media user identities, an increase of nine (9) million from the previous year.¹ Data also show that sixty percent (60%) of Filipino children aged 10 to 17 are active internet users.² As internet and social media use continue to grow among minors, the need for a clear regulatory framework has become increasingly evident.

Recognizing these risks, several countries have adopted stricter measures to protect minors online. Australia became the first country to restrict social media access for

¹ GMA News Online, *PH social media identities up 9M, hit 95.8M – report*, 17 June 2026, accessed at: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/scitech/technology/991808/ph-social-media-user-identities-surge-by-9m-hit-95-8m-report/story/>

² Philippine News Agency, *Palace: Regulated minors' social media use OK to protect mental health*, 3 July 2025, accessed at: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1253484>

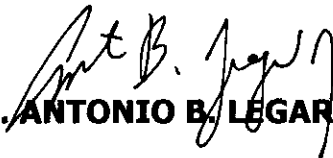
children below sixteen (16), with the law taking effect in December 2025.³ Indonesia followed in March 2026, becoming the first Asian country to adopt a similar policy.⁴ Other jurisdictions have also strengthened age verification requirements and imposed greater responsibility on social media platforms to ensure a safer online environment for children.

The Philippines is likewise moving toward stronger digital safety measures. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) has called for the enactment of a comprehensive digital safety law to establish a minimum age for social media access, strengthen age verification measures, and enhance accountability among platform operators.⁵ Meanwhile, existing Philippine laws, such as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 and the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013, primarily address online harms only after they have occurred. They do not require social media platforms to verify the age of their users nor impose affirmative obligations to prevent underage access and provide age-appropriate standards.

This bill seeks to establish a minimum age requirement for access to social media platforms and strengthen platform accountability through mandatory age verification measures. It requires social media platforms to implement effective age verification systems, prevent underage access, remove accounts found to be in violation of this Act, safeguard personal information collected, and comply with government enforcement measures. It likewise imposes administrative penalties on platforms and service providers that fail to comply with its requirements. Through these measures, the bill seeks to create a safer online environment for children while promoting greater accountability among social media platforms operating in the country.

As children increasingly live, learn, and interact online, ensuring their safety in the digital environment is no longer optional. The State must adopt proactive measures that protect children while promoting a safer and more responsible digital ecosystem for all.

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


HON. ANTONIO B. LEGARDA, JR.

³ Reuters, *Australia gives regulator more power to pursue Big Tech over under-16 ban*, 29 June 2026, accessed at: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/australia-give-regulator-more-power-pursue-big-tech-over-under-16-ban-2026-06-29/>

⁴ Reuters, *Indonesia to restrict social media access for children under 16, minister says*, 6 March 2026, accessed at: <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/society-equity/indonesia-restrict-social-media-access-children-under-16-minister-says-2026-03-06/>

⁵ GMA News Online, *DICT urges Congress to pass digital safety law to protect Filipinos online*, 17 June 2026, accessed at: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/991787/dict-congress-digital-safety-law-filipinos/story/>

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

- 1 Section 1. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to promote and
2 protect the physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being of Filipino children.
3 Recognizing the increasing role and influence of social media platforms, the State
4 affirms its duty to safeguard children from online risks, harmful content, and other
5 forms of digital exploitation.
- 6 The State likewise recognizes the right of children to access information and
7 participate in the digital environment in a manner consistent with their age, maturity,
8 and evolving capacities. Towards this end, the State shall promote a safe, secure, and
9 developmentally appropriate online environment that upholds the best interests of the
10 child while respecting fundamental rights and freedoms.
- 11 It is also the policy of the State to balance the right to information and communication
12 with the duty to provide a safe and developmentally appropriate online environment
13 for Filipino children, in accordance with the best interests of the child, as recognized
14 under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant Philippine
15 laws.

1 Section 2. ***Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
2 be defined as follows:

- 3 a) *Age-restricted user* refers to any natural person below sixteen (16) years of age
4 who is prohibited from maintaining or accessing an account on a social media
5 platform pursuant to this Act;
- 6 b) *Age verification* refers to any reasonable process used to verify whether a user
7 satisfies the minimum age requirement prescribed under this Act, while
8 ensuring compliance with applicable data privacy laws;
- 9 c) *Disabling Order* refers to a written order issued by the Department of
10 Information and Communications Technology directing a social media platform
11 to remove, deactivate, suspend, or otherwise disable access to an account
12 maintained in violation of this Act;
- 13 d) *Social Media Platform* refers to any internet-based service, network, application,
14 website, or computer program whose primary purpose is to provide online
15 social networking or user-generated content services that satisfies the following
16 conditions:
 - 17 i. Its sole or primary purpose is to enable online social interaction between
18 two (2) or more end-users;
 - 19 ii. It allows end-users to link to, or interact with, some or all of the other
20 end-users; and
 - 21 iii. It allows end-users to upload, create, share, or post online content.

22 The term shall not include electronic mail services, short messaging services,
23 online gaming platforms that do not primarily function as social media services,
24 educational learning management systems, enterprise collaboration platforms,
25 government digital services, video conferencing applications, or other online
26 services whose primary purpose is not social networking or user-generated
27 social interaction.

28 Section 3. ***Use of Social Media Platforms by Age-Restricted Users.*** – No age-
29 restricted user shall create, maintain, access, or operate an account on any social
30 media platform covered by this Act.

1 Social media platforms shall take reasonable measures, including reliable age
2 verification systems, to prevent the creation, maintenance, or continued use of
3 accounts by age-restricted users through effective age verification mechanisms and
4 other safeguards prescribed under this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

5 Section 4. ***Obligations of Social Media Platforms.*** - Social media platforms shall
6 take reasonable measures, including effective age verification systems, to prevent
7 age-restricted users from creating, maintaining, accessing, or continuing to use their
8 accounts on their platforms. They shall:

- 9 a) Adopt reliable means to verify the age of its users, including, but not limited to,
10 government-issued identification, accredited third-party age verification
11 services, or other reliable age verification technologies;
- 12 b) Conduct reasonable and periodic audits of user accounts to identify and disable
13 accounts maintained by age-restricted users; and
- 14 c) Establish accessible reporting and prompt response mechanisms for complaints
15 or reports involving possible violations of this Act.

16 Section 5. ***Data Privacy.*** - Any personal information collected by social media
17 platforms or third-party service providers for the purpose of implementing age
18 verification measures and complying with the age requirements under this Act shall
19 be subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the "Data
20 Privacy Act of 2012", and all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

21 Platform providers shall ensure that:

- 22 a) The data collected is adequate, relevant, limited to what is necessary, secure,
23 and retained only for the minimum period necessary to fulfill its intended lawful
24 purpose;
- 25 b) Users are clearly informed of the purpose and scope of data collection, including
26 their rights under existing data privacy laws;
- 27 c) Reasonable security safeguards are in place to protect the information against
28 unauthorized access, use, disclosure, alteration, or destruction; and
- 29 d) Any third-party processors involved in age verification comply with equivalent
30 data protection standards.

31 Violation of this provision shall subject the platform or third-party service provider to
32 penalties under the Data Privacy Act and any other applicable laws.

1 Section 6. ***Role of the Department of Information and Communications***
2 ***Technology.*** - The Department of Information and Communications Technology
3 (DICT) shall serve as the primary implementing agency of this Act. In line with this
4 mandate, the DICT shall have the following powers and functions:

- 5 a) Monitor and assess compliance of social media platforms with the requirements
6 under this Act;
- 7 b) Establish reporting mechanisms for violations of this Act;
- 8 c) Conduct investigations, *motu proprio* or upon verified complaint, on alleged
9 violations of this Act;
- 10 d) Issue Disabling Orders in accordance with Section 7 of this Act;
- 11 e) Recommend to the appropriate regulatory agency the imposition of
12 administrative sanctions, including the suspension or revocation of permits or
13 licenses, where authorized by law;
- 14 f) Impose administrative fines and issue compliance orders in accordance with
15 this Act or its implementing rules and regulations; and
- 16 g) Coordinate with relevant government agencies, including the Department of
17 the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Telecommunications
18 Commission (NTC), National Privacy Commission (NPC), Department of Social
19 Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Department of Education (DepEd), to
20 ensure the effective implementation of this Act.

21 Section 7. ***Disabling Orders.*** - Upon a finding, after due notice and an opportunity
22 to respond to the concerned social media platform, that an account is maintained by
23 an age-restricted user in violation of this Act, the DICT shall issue a Disabling Order
24 directing the immediate takedown, removal, or deactivation of the said account.

25 The concerned social media platform shall comply with the Disabling Order within the
26 period prescribed by the implementing rules and regulations.

27 Within three (3) days from the issuance of the Disabling Order, the DICT shall notify
28 the NTC and instruct it to monitor the compliance with the Order.

29 Failure to comply with a Disabling Order shall subject the platform or other responsible
30 entity to the administrative penalties provided under this Act, without prejudice to any
31 civil or criminal liability under existing laws.

1 Section 8. ***Penalties.*** - Any social media platform, internet service provider, or third-
2 party service provider that fails to comply with this Act, shall be subject to the following
3 administrative penalties, without prejudice to any civil or criminal liability under
4 existing laws.

5 In determining the appropriate administrative penalty to be imposed, due
6 consideration shall be given to the nature and gravity of the violation, the degree of
7 culpability, the number of affected users, any prior violations, and the good faith
8 efforts of the respondent to comply with this Act.

9 a) Social Media Platforms:

- 10 i. Administrative fine of not less than One Million Pesos (P1,000,000) but
11 not exceeding Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000);
- 12 ii. Daily fine of not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000)
13 for each day of continuing violation after receipt of notice; and
- 14 iii. Recommendation to the appropriate regulatory authority for the
15 suspension or restriction of operations, where authorized by law, in
16 cases of repeated or willful violations.

17 b) Internet Service Providers:

- 18 i. Administrative fine of not less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos
19 (P300,000.00) but not more than Three Million Pesos (P3,000,000) for
20 failure to comply with a lawful Disabling Order;
- 21 ii. Recommendation for suspension or revocation of permits or licenses,
22 where authorized by law.

23 c) Third-Party Age Verification Providers:

- 24 i. Administrative fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos
25 (P500,000.00) but not more than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000) for
26 violation of this Act; and
- 27 ii. Disqualification from providing age verification services under this Act upon
28 a finding of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

29 The foregoing penalties shall be without prejudice to prosecution under the Data
30 Privacy Act of 2012 (R.A. No. 10173), the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 (R.A.
31 No. 10175), or any other applicable law.

1 Section 9. ***Appeals.*** – Any person or entity adversely affected by a final order or
2 administrative penalty issued under this Act may appeal the same in accordance with
3 existing laws and applicable rules.

4 Section 10. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from
5 the effectivity of this Act, the DICT, in consultation with the National Privacy
6 Commission (NPC), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Telecommunications
7 Commission (NTC), Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of
8 Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DOH), representatives from the child rights
9 organizations, parents' groups, academe, and other relevant stakeholders, shall
10 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
11 this Act.

12 Section 11. ***Transitory Provision.*** – Existing social media accounts maintained by
13 age-restricted users shall be brought into compliance with this Act within six (6)
14 months from the effectivity of its Implementing Rules and Regulations. During this
15 period, social media platforms shall implement the age verification measures and other
16 compliance mechanisms under this Act. Upon the expiration of the transition period,
17 social media platforms shall suspend, deactivate, or remove accounts that remain in
18 violation of this Act.

19 Nothing in this Section shall preclude voluntary compliance by social media platforms
20 before the expiration of the transition period.

21 Section 12. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid
22 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
23 effect.

24 Section 13. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules
25 and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to the
26 provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

27 Section 14. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
28 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,