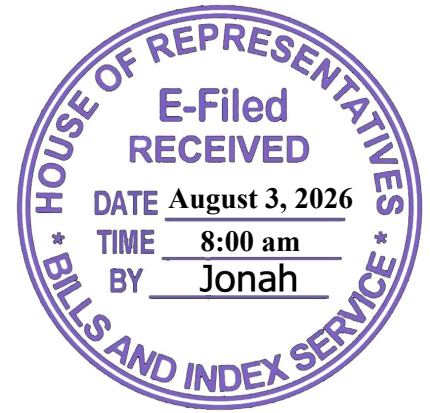


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. 10466



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
DECLARING EVERY 10TH OF FEBRUARY OF EACH YEAR AS
NATIONAL SAFER INTERNET DAY IN THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines continues to rank among the most active internet users in the world. As of 2025, there are approximately 87 to 89 million internet users in the country, representing over 75% of the population, with Filipinos spending an average of 8 to 9 hours online daily, among the highest globally. This reflects a significant increase from earlier estimates of 76.7 million users and over 10 hours of daily usage.

The rapid expansion of internet access has greatly improved connectivity, enabling advancements in education, commerce, communication, and public services. Increasing broadband penetration, mobile connectivity, and digital infrastructure continue to drive the country’s digital transformation.

However, the growing digital landscape has also intensified cybersecurity risks. Recent data from the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and global cybersecurity firms indicate that the Philippines experiences millions of cyber threat attempts annually, including phishing, online scams, identity theft, and cyber-enabled exploitation. Notably, the country remains among those with the highest reported cases of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC), underscoring the urgent need for stronger public awareness and digital safety measures.

In addition, reports from organizations such as We Are Social, DataReportal, and Kaspersky highlight that Filipino users are among the most vulnerable to social engineering attacks due to high social media usage and digital engagement. These evolving threats affect not only individuals but also institutions, making cybersecurity a growing national concern.

Given these developments, there is a pressing need to strengthen public awareness and promote responsible digital behavior. Educating citizens—especially children and young people—on safe internet use is a critical first step in reducing exposure to online risks.

This bill seeks to declare the 10th of February of each year as National Safer Internet Day in the Philippines. By institutionalizing this annual observance, the State aims to promote awareness, encourage responsible online behavior, and foster a culture of cybersecurity and digital responsibility among all Filipinos.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 “*Safer Internet Day (SID) Act*”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Principles.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of information and communications technology in nation-building and to ensure a safe, secure, and responsible digital environment for all Filipinos.

Toward this end, the State shall promote cybersecurity awareness, digital responsibility, and the protection of internet users—especially children and young people—against online threats, including cybercrime, exploitation, and abuse.

SECTION 3. *National Safer Internet Day.* Every 10th day of February of each year is hereby declared as National Safer Internet Day to be observed across the country, especially in government offices, higher education institutions, technical vocational institutions, high schools, and elementary schools.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Agency.* – The Department of Transportation and Communications in close coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall plan, design, and implement programs and activities in

celebration of the National Safer Internet Day every year. Other national government agencies and local government units shall actively participate in the activities of this celebration.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

Approved,