



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10551**



INTRODUCED BY REP. JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proliferation of social media has transformed the way people communicate, access information, and interact with society. While these platforms offer educational and social benefits, growing evidence has shown that excessive and unrestricted social media use among children poses significant risk to their mental health, emotional well-being, cognitive development, privacy, and personal safety.

This issue was also addressed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. in his recent State of the Nation Address where he emphasized the need for stronger protection for our learners from the harmful effects of social media. This is following the tragic school shooting incident at San Jose National High School in Tacloban City.

In March 2026, Indonesia is the first country to restrict social media access in the Southeast Asia region. While Australia passed the Social Media Minimum Age Act of 2024 which became effective in December 2025. The said legislation also restricts social media access for sixteen (16) years old below.

This bill seeks to propose regulatory standards to social media users by limiting social media access of children aged thirteen (13) to sixteen (16) years old and totally prohibiting access thereof for children below thirteen (13) years old. This is to address

the unwanted exposure of children to the violence and negative effects of social media to our youth.

This is also in consonance to the 1987 Constitution which mandates the State to protect the rights and the welfare of the children and to promote their physical, moral, intellectual, and social well-being

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'T' intertwined, enclosed within a circular loop.

REP. JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES, JR.
Deputy Majority Leader
Representative, TGP Party-List



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MINIMUM AGE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA USE, REGULATING
CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, PRESCRIBING
OBLIGATIONS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA PROVIDERS, AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES THEREFOR

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 "Children's Social Media Safety Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared as policy of the State to promote the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of our youth.

The State shall also provide special protection for children from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development. Towards this end, the State shall adopt preventive measures to regulate minors' exposure to social media, minimize distractions from mobile devices and electronic gadgets, and safeguard children from online harms in support of holistic development and safe learning environments.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Age-Restricted User refers to a child who has not reached sixteen (16) years of age.
- b. Social Media Platform refers to any internet-based service, application, website, or computer program primarily intended to enable online social interaction among users and to allow content sharing thereon.
- c. Social Media Platform Provider refers to any entity that owns or operates a social media platform.
- d. Third-Party Age Verification Provider refers to any entity engaged by platforms to verify user age or identity.

SECTION 4. *Absolute Restriction for Social Media Platforms.* - Children below thirteen (13) years old shall be prohibited from registering, accessing, or maintaining accounts on any social media platform.

Social media platform providers shall implement reliable age-verification mechanisms to enforce this restriction.

SECTION 5. *Conditional Access to Social Media Platforms.* - Children at least thirteen (13) years old but below eighteen (18) years old may be granted access to social media platforms upon compliance with the following conditions:

- a. Verifiable parental or guardian consent prior to account creation and for continued access;
- b. Active and continuous parental or guardian supervision over the account;
- c. Automatic suspension or restriction of access upon withdrawal or absence of such consent;
- d. Periodic re-verification of age and parental or guardian consent under the implementing rules and regulations;

- e. Provision of accessible tools that enables parents or guardians to monitor, manage, and control the user's account, including privacy settings, activity monitoring, interaction controls, and time limits; and
- f. Application of highest level of privacy and safety settings by default

SECTION 6. *Duties of Social Media Platform Providers.* – Social media platform providers shall:

- a. Adopt effective age and identity verification systems, including but not limited to ID authentication, face recognition, or comparable technologies;
- b. Conduct regular audits to detect and deactivate accounts held by age-restricted users;
- c. Prevent circumvention of age restrictions through duplicate or reactivated accounts;
- d. Provide functional parental control and content-filtering tools;
- e. Establish prompt reporting and response mechanisms for underage access; and
- f. Ensure that platform design does not promote compulsive or excessive use, including limiting auto play features, addictive notifications, and algorithmic recommendations directed at age-restricted users.

SECTION 7. *Role of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.* – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall serve as the primary implementing agency of this Act. It shall:

- a. Monitor compliance of social media platform providers and third-party age verification providers with the minimum age restriction and other requirements under this Act;
- b. Establish accessible reporting mechanisms for violations;
- c. Conduct investigations, *motu proprio* or upon complaint, on alleged violations of this Act;

- d. Issue Disabling Orders directing the takedown, removal, or deactivation of accounts found to be in violation of the minimum age restriction;
- e. Impose administrative sanctions and penalties in accordance with this Act; and
- f. Coordinate with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Education (DepEd), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), National Privacy Commission (NPC), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), relevant government agencies, and accredited non-government organizations to ensure consistent and child-sensitive implementation of this Act, including the conduct of awareness campaigns and community-based programs on responsible social media use and digital well-being.

SECTION 8. *Disabling Orders and Network-Level Enforcement.* – Upon determination that a social media account is owned, operated, or used by an age-restricted user in violation of this Act, the DICT shall issue a Disabling Order directing the immediate removal or deactivation of such account.

Social media platform providers shall comply with the Disabling Order within five (5) days from receipt thereof.

In case of failure or refusal to comply, the DICT shall notify the NTC, which shall direct internet service providers to implement appropriate technical measures, including but not limited to domain, URL, or IP blocking, solely for purposes of enforcing the Disabling Order.

The NTC shall monitor compliance by internet service providers and submit periodic reports to the DICT.

SECTION 9. *Data Privacy.* – All personal information collected pursuant to the Act shall strictly comply with Republic Act No. 10173 or the “Data Privacy Act of

2012". Data collected shall be limited, secured, and retained only for lawful purposes under this Act and protected through reasonable safeguards.

SECTION 10. *Penalties.* - Any social media platform or third-party age verification provider that fails to comply with this Act shall be subject to the following administrative penalties:

- a. For the first violation, a fine of Five Million Pesos (Php5,000,000);
- b. For the second violation, a fine of Seven Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php7,500,000); and
- c. For the third and subsequent violations, a fine of Ten Million Pesos (Php10,000,000)

These penalties shall be without prejudice to prosecution under existing administrative, civil, or criminal laws.

SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DICT, in coordination with DSWD, DepEd, NTC, NPC, CWC, relevant government agencies, and other private stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity.* - Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,