

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11141



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

AN ACT
INCORPORATING SCAM PREVENTION EDUCATION IN THE SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Over the years, fraudsters and scammers have become more dangerous and have proliferated even in the digital space, especially during the pandemic. Various scams and economic fraud have threatened not only wealthy businesses but also individual citizens. Those who do not have access to education or enough information on their existing modus operandi are vulnerable to these crimes.

The continued expansion of digital services in the Philippines has been accompanied by persistent cyber-enabled fraud, phishing, identity theft, and other online scams. Enforcement activities and advisories from the Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group, the Anti-Money Laundering Council, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and telecommunications providers demonstrate the continuing need for stronger prevention, reporting, investigation, and victim-support mechanisms. Globe Telecom, for example, reported blocking 71 million spam and phishing messages and deactivating 5,670 confirmed spam and phishing numbers in 2021, illustrating the scale of fraudulent communications directed at mobile users.

Children and adolescents are likewise increasingly exposed to online risks through smartphones, social-media platforms, online games, messaging applications, digital-payment services, and e-learning platforms. Their limited experience in recognizing phishing, impersonation, fraudulent offers, and improper requests for personal information may make them particularly vulnerable to scams and identity theft. There is therefore a need to strengthen digital-safety education and preventive measures for school-aged children, while promoting cooperation among schools, families,

government agencies, telecommunications providers, financial institutions, and online platforms to protect minors and assist victims of cyber-enabled offenses.

While scams typically target adults, the recent increased exposure and access of school-aged children to the internet have also made them prey to fraudulent schemes.

The growing threat of fraud in society not only stresses the need to protect young people from scams. It also points to the alarming fact that students are exposed to the dangers these fraudsters create. It is therefore vital for schools to promote anti-scam awareness throughout society as well as equip students with the knowledge so that they can report cases once they encounter an incident of potential fraud or scam.

This bill seeks the protection of students against fraud through the integration of scam prevention education in the school curriculum of senior high schools. It is the hope of this measure to empower the next generation of Filipinos with the critical thinking skills to be able to protect themselves and their families from exploitative scammers.

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


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

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11141**

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

AN ACT
INCORPORATING SCAM PREVENTION EDUCATION IN THE SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*Scam Prevention Education Act.*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Constitution declares that it is the state’s policy to serve and protect the people, to prioritize education in order to promote patriotism and nationalism, and to recognize the vital role of communication and information in nation-building. Towards this end, this Act aims to stem, if not eliminate, different types of scams by inculcating in our youth and/or students the value of critical thinking. This will prevent them from falling prey to scams as they immerse themselves daily in the online world.

SECTION 3. *Inclusion of Scam Education in the Senior High School Curricula.* – Scam Education shall be part of the Senior High School curriculum in public and private schools.

The Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and other concerned agencies shall immediately formulate necessary steps and measures to achieve the objectives of this Section.

SECTION 4. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriation of the Department of Education (DepEd), under the current General Appropriations Act. Such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The DepEd, in consultation with the DICT, PNP, and NBI, among others, shall have the joint responsibility of adopting the implementing rules of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

SECTION 6. *Non-Impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,