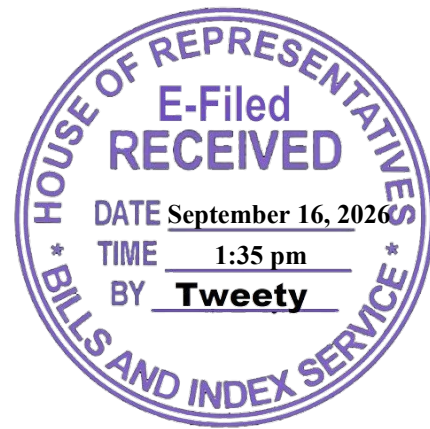


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 11361



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 ranks as the top country in the Asia-Pacific with the highest daily online usage. About 76.7 million Filipino internet users spend an average of more than 10 hours every day scouring the World Wide Web. With the forecasted improvements in the internet infrastructure, about 15.5 million households are predicted to be connected to the internet by 2025.

The availability of the internet throughout the nation has facilitated people's connectivity and daily activities, including those related to education, commerce, and entertainment. Digital operations have increased the efficiency of daily transactions by reducing the time required for otherwise in-person, human transactions and making collaboration doable even for colleagues who are miles apart.

While the potential of internet efficiency has improved our daily lives, it has also presented a number of safety and security challenges to its users both children and adults. In 2021 alone, there were more than 98,000 cyberattacks recorded and around 2.8 million cybercrimes listed, including fraud, sexual abuse and exploitation, bullying and identity theft.

It is our belief that appropriate steps towards lowering the risks of internet users against cybercrimes can be achieved by first raising awareness among the people. In the pursuit of making the online world a safer space for its users, this bill seeks to declare one day every year as National Safer Internet Day.

By making Filipino internet users conscious of their online activities and the potential threats of their digital interactions, their vulnerabilities to scammers, hackers, and online syndicates can be dramatically reduced and prevented.

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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House of Representatives
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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 “*National Safer Internet Day Act*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Principles. – The State recognizes the vital role of information and communications technology in nation-building and the importance of providing an environment conducive to the development, acceleration, and rational application and exploitation of these technologies to attain free, easy, and intelligible access to exchange and/or delivery of information. Thus, it is the obligation of the State to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones, especially amongst children and young people across the country.

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 Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in close coordination with the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), together with the Department of Education, 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 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 7. *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 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified 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,