



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 635

Submitted by the Committee on Women and Gender Equality on **September 14, 2026**

Re: House Bill No. **11264**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 768, 1047, 3118, 5198, 5464, 5564, 8217, and 8717

Sponsors: Representatives Ann Matibag, Kaka J. Bag-ao, Sarah Jane I. Elago, and Leila M. De Lima

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Women and Gender Equality, to which were referred House Bill No. 768, introduced by Representatives Kaka J. Bag-ao, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Percival "Perci" Cendaña, and Dadah Kiram Ismula, entitled:

AN ACT

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

House Bill No. 1047, introduced by Representative JC M. Abalos, entitled:

AN ACT

PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE AND IN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT";

House Bill No. 3118, introduced by Representative Ching B. Bernos, entitled:

AN ACT

PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE AND IN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT";

House Bill No. 5198, introduced by Representatives Sarah Jane I. Elago, Antonio L. Tinio, and Renee Louise M. Co, entitled:

AN ACT
IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE AND IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SAFE SPACES ACT;

House Bill No. 5464, introduced by Representative Ann Matibag, entitled:

AN ACT
PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE AND IN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT";

House Bill No. 5564, introduced by Representative Benjamin C. Agarao, Jr., entitled:

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

House Bill No. 8217, introduced by Representative Crispin Diego D. Remulla, entitled:

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

and House Bill No. 8717, introduced by Representative Leila M. De Lima, entitled:

AN ACT
IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS AGAINST GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT"

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. **11264**, entitled:

AN ACT
EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT," INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACTS, AND DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE ACT OF GROOMING

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 768, 1047, 3118, 5198, 5464, 5564, 8217 and 8717 with Representatives Kaka J. Bag-ao, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Percival "Perci" Cendaña, Dadah Kiram Ismula, JC M. Abalos, Ching B. Bernos, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Antonio L. Tinio, Renee Louise M. Co, Ann Matibag, Benjamin C. Agarao, Jr., Crispin Diego D. Remulla, Leila M. De Lima, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Cielo Krisel Lagman, Edgar R. Erice, Eric L. Olivarez, JB Bernos, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora, Giselle Mary L. Maceda, Agatha "Agay" Cruz, Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, Caroline B. Agyao, MD., Janice Degamo, Girlie E. Veloso, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Florabel C.

Yatco, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Alexandria "Queenie" Gonzales, and Kathryn Joyce F. Gorriceta as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



REP. ANN MATIBAG

Chairperson

Committee on Women and Gender Equality

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **11264**

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 768, 1047, 3118, 5198, 5464, 5564, 8217,
and 8717)

Introduced by Representatives Kaka J. Bag-ao, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" I. Diokno, Percival "Perci" Cendaña, Dadah Kiram Ismula, JC M. Abalos, Ching B. Bernos, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Antonio L. Tinio, Renee Louise M. Co, Ann Matibag, Benjamin C. Agarao, Jr., Crispin Diego D. Remulla, Leila M. De Lima, Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Cielo Krisel Lagman, Edgar R. Erice, Eric L. Olivarez, JB Bernos, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Sittie Aminah Q. Dimaporo, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora, Giselle Mary L. Maceda, Agatha "Agay" Cruz, Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, Caroline B. Agyao, MD., Janice Degamo, Girlie E. Veloso, Lani Mercado-Revilla, Florabel C. Yatco, Maria Cristina C. Angeles, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Alexandria "Queenie" Gonzales, and Kathryn Joyce F. Gorriceta

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT," INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACTS, AND DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE ACT OF GROOMING

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 11313, otherwise known as the
2 "Safe Spaces Act", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act:

4 xxx

5 (g) *Public spaces* refer to streets and alleys **WHETHER IN URBAN OR RURAL**
6 **AREAS**, public parks, schools, buildings, malls, bars, restaurants, **FIELDS**

1 **AND FARMS, COASTAL AREAS**, transportation terminals, public markets,
2 **MULTI-PURPOSE HALLS**, spaces used as evacuation centers, government
3 offices, public utility vehicles as well as private vehicles covered by app-based
4 transport network services, and other recreational spaces such as, but not
5 limited to, cinema halls, theaters and spas; [~~and~~]

6 (h) *Stalking* xxx; **AND**

7 **(I) GROOMING REFERS TO PREDATORY CONDUCT, AN ACT, OR**
8 **PATTERN OF ACTS OF ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST OR**
9 **EMOTIONAL CONNECTION BY A PERSON WITH A CHILD OR SOMEONE**
10 **WHO IS BELIEVED TO BE A CHILD, AND/OR THE CHILD'S FAMILY,**
11 **GUARDIAN, OR CAREGIVERS, WHETHER IN PERSON OR VIA**
12 **ELECTRONIC AND OTHER SIMILAR DEVICES, FOR THE PURPOSE OF**
13 **PERPETRATING SEXUAL ABUSE OR EXPLOITATION."**

14 SEC. 2. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 11313 is hereby amended to read as
15 follows:

16 "SEC. 8. *Duties of Local Government Units (LGUs)*. — xxx

17 (e) Create an anti-sexual harassment hotline; [~~and~~]

18 **(F) MAINTAIN A DIRECTORY OF ACCREDITED COUNSELLING, LEGAL**
19 **AND SUPPORT-SERVICE PROVIDERS AND ENSURE THESE SERVICES**
20 **ARE GENDER-SENSITIVE, TRAUMA-INFORMED AND INCLUSIVE OF**
21 **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, LGBTQ+ (LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,**
22 **TRANSGENDER, QUEER, OR QUESTIONING, AND OTHER SEXUAL**
23 **ORIENTATIONS AND GENDER IDENTITIES) PERSONS, SENIORS,**
24 **INDIGENOUS PERSONS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS;**

1 (G) SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT ON SERVICE UTILIZATION AND
2 CLIENT OUTCOMES, WHILE MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY, TO THE
3 PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON WOMEN (PCW) AND DEPARTMENT OF
4 SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD); AND

5 [(f))(H) Coordinate with the Department of the Interior and Local Government
6 (DILG) on the implementation of this Act."

7 SEC. 3. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 11313 is hereby amended to read as
8 follows:

9 "SEC. 12. *Gender-Based Online Sexual Harassment*. — Gender-based
10 online sexual harassment includes acts that use information and
11 communications technology in terrorizing and intimidating victims through
12 physical, psychological, and emotional threats, unwanted sexual misogynistic,
13 transphobic, homophobic and sexist remarks and comments online,
14 **REGARDLESS OF LANGUAGE OR DIALECT**, whether publicly or through
15 direct and private messages, invasion of victim's privacy through cyberstalking
16 and incessant messaging, uploading and sharing without the consent of the
17 victim, any form of media that contains photos, voice, or video with sexual
18 content, any unauthorized recording and sharing of any of the victim's photos,
19 videos, or any information online, impersonating identities of victims online or
20 posting lies about victims to harm their reputation, or filing, false abuse reports
21 to online platforms to silence victims, **WHETHER SUCH ACTS ARE**
22 **FACILITATED THROUGH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) OR OTHER**
23 **EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES. "**

24 SEC. 4. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 11313 is hereby amended to read as
25 follows:

1 "SEC.14. *Penalties for Gender-Based Online Sexual Harassment.* —

2 xxx

3 Any record, photo [øf], video, or copy thereof of any person that is in
4 violation of the preceding sections shall not be admissible in evidence in any
5 judicial, quasi-judicial, legislative, or administrative hearing or investigation.

6 **INTERNET INTERMEDIARIES SHALL, WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24)**
7 **HOURS FROM RECEIPT OF A NOTICE OR LAWFUL ORDER FROM A**
8 **COMPETENT AUTHORITY, BLOCK ACCESS TO, REMOVE, DISABLE**
9 **ACCESS TO, OR TAKE DOWN ANY WEBSITE, WEBPAGE, UNIFORM**
10 **RESOURCE LOCATOR (URL), ONLINE ACCOUNT, DIGITAL CONTENT,**
11 **OR OTHER ONLINE MATERIAL FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THIS**
12 **ACT: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE INTERMEDIARIES SHALL PRESERVE ALL**
13 **SUBSCRIBERS OR REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND TRAFFIC DATA**
14 **IN ITS CONTROL AND POSSESSION FOR A PERIOD OF SIX (6) MONTHS**
15 **FROM THE DATE OF THE TRANSACTION, EXTENDIBLE FOR ANOTHER**
16 **SIX (6) MONTHS OR DURING THE PENDENCY OF THE CASE: *PROVIDED*,**
17 ***FURTHER*, THAT CONTENT DATA SHALL BE PRESERVED FOR A**
18 **PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR, EXTENDIBLE FOR ANOTHER SIX (6) MONTHS,**
19 **UPON NOTICE BY COMPETENT AUTHORITY: *PROVIDED*, *FINALLY*,**
20 **THAT THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY SHALL, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE,**
21 **EXPRESSLY IDENTIFY AND SPECIFY THE EVIDENCE THAT NEEDS**
22 **PRESERVATION."**

23 SEC. 5. Republic Act No. 11313 is hereby amended by inserting the following
24 new sections after Section 19 thereof:

1 **"SEC. 19-A. *PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED SEXUAL***
2 ***HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE.* - THE PENALTY OF *PRISION***
3 ***CORRECCIONAL* IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD, OR A FINE OF NOT LESS**
4 **THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P250,000.00) BUT NOT**
5 **MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR**
6 **BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT, SHALL BE IMPOSED UPON**
7 **ANY PERSON FOUND GUILTY OF ANY GENDER-BASED SEXUAL**
8 **HARASSMENT UNDER THIS ARTICLE.**

9 **IF THE PERPETRATOR IS THE HEAD OF THE WORKPLACE OR**
10 **ORGANIZATION, THE APPOINTMENT OF SUCH PERSON SHALL BE**
11 **DEEMED REVOKED UPON CONVICTION. AN ALIEN WHO COMMITS**
12 **GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE SHALL**
13 **BE SUBJECT TO DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS AFTER SERVING A**
14 **SENTENCE AND/OR PAYMENT OF FINES.**

15 **"SEC. 19-B. *PENALTIES FOR FOMENTING, PROMOTING, OR***
16 ***EXHORTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT, MISOGYNISTIC, TRANSPHOBIC,***
17 ***HOMOPHOBIC, AND SEXIST SLURS BY PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT***
18 ***OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES.* - ANY PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR**
19 **GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WHO IS FOUND GUILTY OF FOMENTING,**
20 **PROMOTING, OR EXHORTING ACTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT,**
21 **MISOGYNISTIC, TRANSPHOBIC, HOMOPHOBIC, AND SEXIST SLURS,**
22 **EITHER VERBALLY, IN WRITING, OR THROUGH DIGITAL OR SOCIAL**
23 **MEDIA PLATFORMS SHALL BE PENALIZED AS FOLLOWS:**

24 **(A) THE FIRST OFFENSE SHALL BE PUNISHED BY A MINIMUM**
25 **FINE OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00)**

1 TO TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00),
2 MANDATORY SUSPENSION FROM PUBLIC OFFICE OR
3 EMPLOYMENT FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6)
4 MONTHS WITHOUT PAY, AND MANDATORY COMPLETION
5 OF A GENDER-SENSITIVITY AND ANTI-HARASSMENT
6 TRAINING PROGRAM, CERTIFIED BY AN ACCREDITED
7 INSTITUTION.

8 (B) THE REPEAT OFFENSE SHALL BE PUNISHED BY A
9 MINIMUM FINE OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
10 (P200,000.00) TO THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
11 (P300,000.00), MANDATORY DISMISSAL FROM OFFICE,
12 ALONG WITH DISQUALIFICATION FROM HOLDING ANY
13 PUBLIC POSITION, WHETHER ELECTIVE OR APPOINTIVE,
14 FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE (5) YEARS; AND A
15 PERMANENT RECORD OF THE OFFENSE ON PUBLIC
16 SERVICE CREDENTIALS AND PROHIBITION FROM
17 RECEIVING BENEFITS TIED TO THE OFFICE.

18 (C) THE OFFENDER IN ALL CASES UNDER THIS SECTION
19 SHALL BE REQUIRED TO ISSUE A PUBLIC APOLOGY TO
20 THE AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC,
21 ACKNOWLEDGING THE MISCONDUCT AND REAFFIRMING
22 A COMMITMENT TO UPHOLDING THE SAFE SPACES ACT'S
23 PRINCIPLES.

24 COMPLAINTS AND FINDINGS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE
25 REFERRED TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OR THE OFFICE OF

1 THE OMBUDSMAN FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF, AND MONITORING OF
2 COMPLIANCE WITH, THESE PENALTIES.

3 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL
4 GOVERNMENT, THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, AND OTHER
5 RELEVANT AGENCIES SHALL PROMULGATE THE IMPLEMENTING
6 RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THIS SECTION AND THE MECHANISMS
7 FOR REPORTING, INVESTIGATING, AND PENALIZING PUBLIC
8 OFFICIALS AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO VIOLATE THIS
9 PROVISION.”

10 SEC. 6. Republic Act No. 11313 is hereby amended by inserting the following
11 new sections after Section 23 thereof:

12 **"SEC. 23-A. *PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED SEXUAL***
13 ***HARASSMENT IN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS; PRE-***
14 ***HIRING SAFETY CLEARANCE. — THE PENALTY OF PRISION***
15 ***CORRECCIONAL*** IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD, OR A FINE OF NOT LESS
16 THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P250,000.00) BUT NOT
17 MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR
18 BOTH, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT SHALL BE IMPOSED UPON
19 ANY PERSON FOUND GUILTY OF ANY GENDER-BASED SEXUAL
20 HARASSMENT UNDER THIS ARTICLE: *PROVIDED*, THAT IF THE
21 PERPETRATOR IS AN ADULT AND THE VICTIM IS A CHILD, THE
22 PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT SHALL BE MANDATORY.

23 IF THE PERPETRATOR IS THE HEAD OF THE EDUCATIONAL OR
24 TRAINING INSTITUTION OR ORGANIZATION, THE APPOINTMENT OF
25 SUCH PERSON SHALL BE DEEMED REVOKED UPON CONVICTION. AN

1 ALIEN WHO COMMITS GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN AN
2 EDUCATIONAL OR TRAINING INSTITUTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO
3 DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS AFTER SERVING A SENTENCE AND/OR
4 PAYMENT OF FINES.

5 THE INSTITUTION SHALL REQUIRE A PRE-HIRING SAFETY
6 CLEARANCE FOR ALL PERSONNEL TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF
7 THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

8 "SEC. 23-B. *PENALTIES FOR GROOMING.* — THE PENALTY OF
9 *PRISION MAYOR* IN ITS MINIMUM PERIOD, OR A FINE OF NOT LESS
10 THAN THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P300,000.00) BUT NOT
11 MORE THAN SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P600,000.00), OR BOTH,
12 AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT SHALL BE IMPOSED UPON ANY
13 PERSON FOUND GUILTY OF THE ACT OF GROOMING AS DEFINED IN
14 SECTION 3(I) OF THIS ACT. THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GROOMING,
15 REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT LEADS TO ACTUAL SEXUAL ABUSE OR
16 EXPLOITATION, SHALL BE PUNISHED AS A CONSUMMATED OFFENSE
17 UNDER THIS ACT. IF THE PERPETRATOR HOLDS A POSITION OF
18 AUTHORITY, INFLUENCE, TRUST, OR MORAL ASCENDANCY OVER THE
19 VICTIM, THE MAXIMUM APPLICABLE PENALTY SHALL BE IMPOSED:
20 *PROVIDED*, THAT IF THE PERPETRATOR IS AN ADULT AND THE VICTIM
21 IS A CHILD, THE PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT SHALL BE MANDATORY.
22 AN ALIEN WHO COMMITS THE ACT OF GROOMING SHALL BE SUBJECT
23 TO DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS AFTER SERVING A SENTENCE
24 AND/OR PAYMENT OF FINES."

SEC. 7. Section 36 of Republic Act No. 11313 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 36. *Prescriptive Period*. — Any action arising from the violation of any of the provisions of this Act shall prescribe as follows:

xxx

(e) Offenses committed under Sections 16 ~~[and]~~, **19-A, 19-B, 21, AND 23-A** of this Act, **INCLUDING THE OFFENSE OF GROOMING AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(I)**, shall prescribe in ~~[five (5)]~~ **TEN (10)** years."

SEC. 8. If any provision of this Act is found unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances, and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

House of Representatives

Committee Affairs Department

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. **11264**

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 768, 1047, 3118, 5198, 5464, 5564, 8217, and 8717)

(Approved by the Committee on Women and Gender Equality on 13 May 2026)

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT," INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACTS, AND DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE ACT OF GROOMING

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVES KAKA J. BAG-AO, JOSE MANUEL TADEO "CHEL" I. DIOKNO, PERCIVAL "PERCI" CENDAÑA, DADAH KIRAM ISMULA, JC M. ABALOS, CHING B. BERNOS, SARAH JANE I. ELAGO, ANTONIO L. TINIO, RENEE LOUISE M. CO, ANN MATIBAG, BENJAMIN C. AGARAO, JR., CRISPIN DIEGO D. REMULLA, LEILA M. DE LIMA, IRIS MARIE DEMESA MONTES, CIELO KRISSEL LAGMAN, EDGAR R. ERICE, ERIC L. OLIVAREZ, JB BERNOS, LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA, SITTIE AMINAH Q. DIMAPORO, YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA, GISELLE MARY L. MACEDA, AGATHA "AGAY" CRUZ, KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI, CAROLINE B. AGYAO, MD., JANICE DEGAMO, GIRLIE E. VELOSO, LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, FLORABEL C. YATCO, MARIA CRISTINA C. ANGELES, ELEANOR C. BULUT-BEGTANG, ALEXANDRIA "QUEENIE" GONZALES, AND KATHRYN JOYCE F. GORRICETA

*Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY
Committee Chairperson: REP. ANN MATIBAG*

OBJECTIVES:

- To heighten the sanctions for gender-based sexual harassment (GBSH) committed in educational and training institutions, and workplaces by rendering imposable penalties under the law
- To broaden the perspective of safe spaces with a grander sense of regard for the inviolability of these settings, including urban/rural areas, farms, and coastal areas
- To penalize and curb the act of grooming to protect children from predatory conduct, and to ensure severe consequences for perpetrators who exploit positions of authority or trust

- To address emerging threats in the digital space, specifically involving artificial intelligence and other new technologies

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Widens the scope of public spaces to explicitly include urban/rural areas, fields, farms, coastal areas, and multi-purpose halls (*Sec. 3(g)*);
- Defines grooming as predatory conduct aimed at establishing trust with a child (or one believed to be a child) and their caregivers to facilitate sexual abuse or exploitation (*new Sec. 3 (I)*);
- Requires local government units to maintain a directory of accredited, gender-sensitive, and trauma-informed support providers specifically inclusive of LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning, and other sexual orientations and gender identities), persons with disabilities, seniors, and indigenous persons (*new Sec. 8 (F)*);
- Mandates an annual confidential report on service utilization and client outcomes to the Philippine Commission on Women and Department of Social Welfare and Development (*new Sec. 8 (G)*);
- Expands the legal scope to encompass acts involving artificial intelligence and emerging technologies regardless of the language or dialect used to address violations such as terrorizing, intimidating, cyberstalking, and the unauthorized sharing of sexual content or reputational lies (*Sec. 12*);
- Enforces a 24-hour takedown rule, requiring internet intermediaries to remove violating content within one day of receiving notice from a competent authority (*Sec. 14*);
- Standardizes data preservation by requiring subscriber and traffic data to be retained for six months and content data for one year, with both periods subject to a possible six-month extension (*Sec. 14*);
- Penalizes workplace GBSH with *prision correccional* (maximum) or a fine ranging from ₱250,000.00 to ₱500,000.00 (*new Sec. 19-A*);
- Revokes the appointments of heads of organizations immediately upon conviction (*new Sec. 19-A*);
- Subjects foreign nationals (aliens) to deportation proceedings following the completion of their sentence (*new Sec. 19-A*);
- Disciplines public officials for a first offense through a fine ranging from ₱100,000.00 to ₱200,000.00 along with a six-month unpaid suspension and mandatory gender training (*new Sec. 19-B*);

- Mandates for repeat offenders a higher fine of ₱200,000.00 to ₱300,000.00 plus mandatory dismissal and a five-year disqualification from holding public office (*new Sec. 19-B*);
- Requires a public apology for all cases regardless of whether the violation is a first or subsequent offense (*new Sec. 19-B*);
- Establishes for educational and training institutions penalties of *prision correccional* (maximum) or a fine ranging from ₱250,000.00 to ₱500,000.00 (*new Sec. 23-A*);
- Compels imprisonment within educational and training institutions if the perpetrator is an adult and the victim is a child (*new Sec. 23-A*);
- Institutes a pre-hiring safety clearance for all personnel across educational and training institutions to ensure the safety of the learning environment (*new Sec. 23-A*);
- Revokes the appointment of the head of the educational and training institution upon conviction (*new Sec. 23-A*);
- Penalizes grooming with *prision mayor* (minimum), or a fine of ₱300,000.00 to ₱600,000.00, or both (*new Sec. 23-B*);
- Punishes the accomplishment of grooming as a consummated offense, regardless of whether it leads to actual sexual abuse or exploitation (*new Sec. 23-B*);
- Imposes the maximum applicable penalty if the perpetrator holds a position of authority, influence, trust, or moral ascendancy over the victim (*new Sec. 23-B*);
- Mandates the penalty of imprisonment if the perpetrator is an adult and the victim is a child (*new Sec. 23-B*);
- Subjects an alien who commits grooming to deportation proceedings after serving their sentence and/or paying fines (*new Sec. 23-B*);
- Extends the prescriptive period for filing legal actions for offenses under Sections 16, 19-A, 19-B, 21, and 23-A, including the offense of grooming as defined in Section 3(i), to ten (10) years (*Sec. 36(e)*).

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 11313, or Safe Spaces Act
- Republic Act No. 9710, or The Magna Carta of Women
- Republic Act No. 7877, or Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995
- Article 336 (Acts of Lasciviousness) of Act No. 3815, or The Revised Penal Code