

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 35



Introduced by **Rep. Jaime R. Fresnedi**

EXPLANATORY NOTE


This legislative measure seeks to institutionalize internet safety and media literacy education in all basic education institutions in the country. Given the rapid digitalization of society, it is therefore imperative that students are equipped with the proper knowledge and skills to navigate the digital landscape responsibly and safely. The bill mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to develop and implement an Internet Safety Education Program which incorporates research-based, age-appropriate learning materials, professional teacher training and public awareness campaigns. It shall also promote parental education to help families in guiding their children in using digital media responsibly.

In today's digital age, the Philippines stands as one of the most active countries in social media. As of 2025, there are approximately 89.8 million social media users in the country. Filipinos aged 16 and above spend an average of 3 hours and 32 minutes daily on social media platforms, ranking us fourth in terms of usage in the world. This pervasive integration of social media into our daily lives underscores the necessity for comprehensive education on internet safety and media literacy. While the digital shift has provided us with various opportunities, it has also greatly exposed children and adolescents to significant risks like cyberbullying, misinformation, security breaches and online exploitation.

By embedding internet safety and media literacy into the curriculum, the measure shall empower students to critically assess the media they consume and engage in responsible digital behavior. It shall also foster a more informed and secure digital community where the youth can maximize the benefits of digital media and minimize the potential risks associated with it.

With the nation's reliance on digital platforms, it is therefore the responsibility of the government to ensure that all Filipinos, especially members of the youth, are protected for the challenges of the digital age. This piece of legislation is a necessary step toward building a safer, more responsible and well-informed digital society.

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


JAIME R. FRESNEDI
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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SAFETY INTERNET EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE
CURRICULUM OF ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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 “*Internet Safety Education Act.*”

Sec. 2. *Internet Safety Education Program (ISEP).* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall, within (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, formulate, develop and implement an ISEP. The ISEP shall be a research-based program that encourages safe, ethical and responsible use of the Internet, promote an informed and critical understanding of the Internet and educate children and communities about how to prevent or respond to problems or dangers related to the Internet or new media.

Sec. 3. *Implementation.* – In order to ensure the efficiency and effectivity of the ISEP, the DepEd shall:

- (a) Identify, develop and implement an educational technology, multimedia and interactive applications, online resources and lesson plans for ISEP;
- (b) Provide professional training to elementary and secondary teachers, administrators and other staff on internet safety and New Media literacy. For the purposes of this Act, New Media is defined as an emerging, digital, computerized or network informed and communication technologies that often have interactive capacities. This includes email, instant messaging, text messaging, websites, blogs, interactive gaming, social media, cellphones and mobile devices.
- (c) Develop online risk prevention programs for children;
- (d) Train and support peer-driven internet safety education initiatives;
- (e) Coordinate and fund research initiatives that investigate online risks to promote awareness of online risks to children and internet safety education;

- (f) Develop and implement public education campaigns to promote awareness of online risks to children and internet safety education;
- (g) Educate parents about teaching their children to use the internet and new media safely, responsibly and ethically and help parents identify and protect their children from risks relating to use of the internet and new media; and
- (h) The Secretary shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and regulations, including those of disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 4. Appropriations. – The initial amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, shall be charged against the current budget of the DepEd. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision or section of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions and sections not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders or issuances or any part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,