

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 365



---

Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**


Today's technological advancements have made people more vulnerable and susceptible to the spread of fake news. The power of social media to reach a wide range of audience has made it easier for nefarious individuals to manipulate social media platforms to influence and sway public opinion.

The rise of the internet has definitely presented new challenges on laws regulating and penalizing disinformation to the public. As legislators, we must find ways to guide the public on the responsible use of social media. This bill seeks to include social media education in the K-12 curriculum as well as the National Service Training Program. We hope that through this measure, the youth would learn the virtues of discernment and critical thinking in their everyday use of social media.

Furthermore, this bill mandates all government agencies, including local government units and non-government organizations, to formulate policies for the responsible, transparent and fair utilization of social media in their respective offices. The Philippine Communications Operations Office, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communication Technology, will be tasked to conduct training programs and strategy development seminars to enhance social media use and counter the spread of misinformation.

As the internet becomes a major part of our daily lives, it is high time that we enact social media literacy.

In view of the foregoing, support for the approval of this legislation is earnestly sought.

  
**VICTOR A. YAP**  
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
House Bill No. 365

Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

AN ACT  
INCORPORATING THE VALUE OF RESPONSIBLE, FAIR AND TRUTHFUL  
UTILIZATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, GOVERNMENT  
AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION, PRIVATE CORPORATIONS,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1       **SECTION 1. *Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the “*Social Media Awareness Act*”.

2  
3       **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State has constitutionally-declared policies  
4 to serve and protect the people, to give priority to education to foster patriotism and nationalism  
5 and to recognize the vital role of communication and information in nation-building. Towards  
6 this end, it is the objective of this Act to cope up with the mercurial rise of the influence and  
7 prevalence of use of Social Media by inculcating onto the youth and/or students the virtues of  
8 discernment and critical-thinking in their unavoidable daily immersion in Social Media. Further,  
9 government agencies as well as private institutions shall contribute to ensuring social media  
10 literacy in the nation.

11  
12       **SECTION 3. *Inclusion of Social Media in the Curricula for Primary and Secondary***  
13 ***Education.*** – Social Media awareness shall be part of the K-12 curriculum, in public and private  
14 schools, with the following objectives:

- 15  
16       a. Inculcate how various types of Social Media aid in the effective and efficient  
17       dissemination of information;  
18       b. Inculcate how Social Media helps in shaping public discourse and opinion;  
19       c. Inculcate how Social Media helps in fostering a more participative democracy;  
20       d. Inculcate the importance of upholding truth and the veracity of facts, figures and  
21       events in Social Media;  
22       e. Inculcate responsible and fair use of Social Media; and

1 f. Inculcate the virtues of discernment and critical-thinking in the use and/or enjoyment  
2 of Social Media.

3  
4 The Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the Department of  
5 Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall immediately formulate the  
6 necessary steps and measures to achieve the objectives of this Section.

7  
8 **SECTION 4. *Social Media Awareness as part of the National Service Training***  
9 ***Program (NSTP)*** – Social Media awareness must be made part of the National Service Training  
10 Program (NSTP), particularly in the service components pertaining to the Literacy Training  
11 Service (LTS) and the Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS).

12  
13 The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills  
14 Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with the DICT, shall immediately formulate  
15 the necessary steps and measures to achieve the objectives of this Section.

16  
17 **SECTION 5. *Social Media Literacy.*** - All government agencies, including local  
18 government units and non-government organizations must formulate policies for the  
19 responsible, transparent and fair utilization of social media in their respective offices.

20  
21 **SECTION 6. *Training Programs and Strategy Development Seminars.*** – The  
22 Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), in coordination with the DICT shall  
23 be tasked to conduct training programs and strategy development seminars to enhance social  
24 media use and counter the spread of misinformation.

25  
26 **SECTION 7. *Contribution of the Private Sector in Social Media Awareness.*** -  
27 Private corporations must formulate and implement effective measures and/or policies in  
28 relation to the responsible, fair and truthful utilization and/or enjoyment of various types of  
29 Social Media. Private corporations must likewise promote the foregoing as part of their  
30 respective Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

31 The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), in consultation with the DICT, shall  
32 immediately formulate the necessary steps and measures to achieve the objectives of this  
33 Section.

34  
35 **SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DepEd, CHED, SEC,  
36 PCOO in consultation with the DICT, shall have the joint responsibility for the adoption of the  
37 implementing rules of this Act.

1           **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause*** – If any section or provision of this Act shall be  
2 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain  
3 in full force and effect.

4  
5           **SECTION 10. *Effectivity*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
6 publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

7  
8  
9           Approved,