

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6049



**INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

**AN ACT
INCORPORATING THE VALUE OF RESPONSIBLE, FAIR USAGE
AND ENJOYMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN CURRICULA
NATIONWIDE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE


In the advent of Information and Communications Technology, the fast-paced improvement of mobile devices, and the public accessibility of Wi-Fi and mobile data, Filipinos can easily access the internet and social media platforms. Given its apparent accessibility, majority of the total population of the Filipinos are internet users and have an active presence on social media, particularly Facebook.

The use of the internet can be beneficial to the development by the youth. It gave them the freedom to browse the world wide web for much needed information and knowledge. However, there have been instances where children have encountered exploitative strangers who prey on them. Others experience bullying through demeaning words or comments, or posting of one's private photos.

Under Section 17, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, the State shall address these concerns as it is mandated to prioritize, among others, education, science and technology to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Section 13 of the same Article recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building wherein the State shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

This bill thus seeks to educate our children on how to effectively and safely use social media in communications and dissemination of information. It aims to help pupils and students utilize social media in public discourse and opinion for a more participative democracy. Moreover, this will help develop discernment and critical thinking in the responsible use of present and future technologies.

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



ALFRED VARGAS

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Social Media Awareness in Curricula Nationwide Act".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - The State has constitutionally-declared policies to serve and protect the people, to give priority to education to foster patriotism and nationalism and to recognize the vital role of communication and information in nation building. Towards this end, it is the objective of this Act to adapt with the mercurial rise of the influence and prevalence of use of Social Media by inculcating onto the youth and for students the virtues of discernment and critical thinking in their unavoidable daily immersion in social media.

SECTION 3. Inclusion of Social Media in the Curricula for Primary and Secondary Education. – Social Media Awareness shall be part of the curriculum for both primary and secondary education, in public and private schools, with the following objectives:

- a. To inculcate how various types of Social Media aid in the effective and efficient dissemination of information;
- b. To inculcate how Social Media helps in shaping public discourse and opinion;

- c. To inculcate how Social Media helps in fostering a more participative democracy;
- d. To inculcate the importance of upholding truth and the veracity of facts, figures and events in Social Media;
- e. To inculcate responsible and fair use of Social Media; and
- f. To inculcate the virtues of discernment and critical-thinking in the use and/or enjoyment of Social Media.

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

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

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

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd shall, in consultation with CHED, TESDA, and DICT, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That the failure of the concerned agencies to promulgate the said rules and regulations shall not prevent the implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,