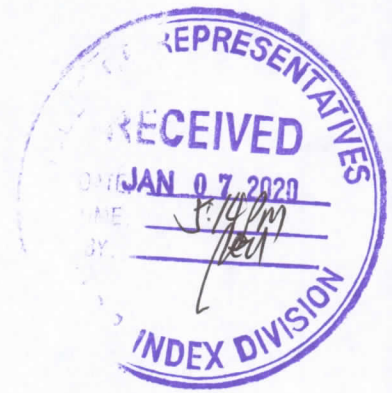


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5924



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE


"Fake news" is a type of propaganda that consists of deliberate disinformation or hoaxes spread via traditional print and broadcast news media or online social media. The false information is then often reverberated as misinformation in social media, but occasionally finds its way to the mainstream media as well. Fake news is written and published with the intent to mislead in order to damage an agency, entity, or person, and/or gain financially or politically, often using sensationalist, dishonest, or outright fabricated headlines to increase readership, online sharing, and Internet click revenue. In the latter case, it is similar to sensational online "clickbait" headlines and relies on advertising revenue generated from this activity, regardless of the veracity of the published stories.

This phenomenon has been one of the most hotly-debated socio-political topics of recent years. Websites which deliberately published hoaxes and misleading information popped up across the internet and were often shared on social media to increase their reach. As a result, Filipinos have become wary of the information that they read online, with some stating that they rarely trusted the news that they read on social media.

The relevance of fake news has increased in post-truth politics. For media outlets, the ability to attract viewers to their websites is necessary to generate online advertising revenue. If publishing a story with false content attracts users, this benefits advertisers and improves ratings. Easy access to online advertisement revenue, increased political polarization, and the popularity of social media, primarily the Facebook News Feed, have all been implicated in the spread of fake news, which competes with legitimate news stories. Hostile government actors have also been implicated in generating and propagating fake news, particularly during elections.

These realities urged this representation to propose a measure that shall instill in our youth, the value of honesty and responsibility in the use of social media, without curtailing the often-sensitive topic of the right to free speech. Through education, social media awareness of our people will hopefully improve when the youth of our nation take the reins of this country from us in the near future.

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


MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
INCORPORATING THE VALUE OF RESPONSIBLE, FAIR, AND TRUTHFUL USAGE
AND ENJOYMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.***—This Act shall be known as the “*Social Media Awareness*
2 *Education Act.*”

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.***—The State has constitutionally-declared policies to serve and
5 protect the people, to give priority to education to foster patriotism and nationalism and to recognize
6 the vital role of communication and information in nation-building. Towards this end, it is the
7 objective of this Act to cope with the mercurial rise of the influence and prevalence of use of social
8 media by inculcating onto the youth and/or students the virtues of discernment and critical-thinking
9 in their unavoidable daily immersion in social media.

10
11 **SEC. 3. *Inclusion of Social Media in the Curricula for Primary and Secondary***
12 ***Education.***—Social media awareness shall be part of the curriculum for both primary and secondary
13 education, in public and private schools, with the following objectives:

- 14 (a) Inculcate how various types of social media aid in the effective and efficient dissemination of
15 information;
16 (b) Inculcate how social media helps in shaping public discourse and opinion;
17 (c) Inculcate how social media helps in fostering a more participative democracy;
18 (d) Inculcate the importance of upholding truth and the veracity of facts, figures, and events in
19 social media;
20 (e) Inculcate responsible and fair use of social media; and
21 (f) Inculcate the virtues of discernment and critical-thinking in the use and/or enjoyment of social
22 media.

23
24 The Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the Department of Information
25 and Communications Technology (DICT), shall immediately formulate the necessary steps and
26 measures to achieve the objectives of this section.
27

1 **SEC. 4. *Social Media Awareness as Part of the National Service Training Program***
2 **(NSTP).**—Social media awareness must be made part of the National Service Training Program
3 (NSTP), particularly in the service components pertaining to the Literacy Training Service (LTS) and
4 the Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS).

5
6 The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills
7 Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with the DICT, shall immediately formulate the
8 necessary steps and measures to achieve the objectives of this section.
9

10 **SEC. 5. *Contribution of the Private Sector in Social Media Awareness.***—Private
11 corporations must formulate and implement effective measures and/or policies in relation to the
12 responsible, fair, and truthful utilization and/or enjoyment of various types of social media. Private
13 corporations must likewise promote the foregoing as part of their respective Corporate Social
14 Responsibility (CSR).
15

16 The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), in consultation with the DICT, shall
17 immediately formulate the necessary steps and measures to achieve the objectives of this section.
18

19 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***—The DepEd, CHED, SEC, in consultation
20 with the DICT, shall have the joint responsibility for the adoption of the implementing rules of this
21 Act within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.
22

23 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.***—All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent
24 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
25

26 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.***—If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or
27 unconstitutional, the other parts not otherwise affected shall remain in full effect and force.
28

29 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.***—This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its complete publication in
30 the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general publication.

Approved,