

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18th Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 3505



Introduced by: **HON. LORNA C. SILVERIO**

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The World Wide Web or simply the Internet has made the dissemination of information at a faster rate nobody ever imagined. People can access the “Information Highway” anytime of the day, 24/7 as long as there is an internet WiFi connection. The internet can enrich lives, provide information, entertainment, social networking, and connections to people all over the world. But inspite of all the benefits we reap while using the internet, there are also a lot of negative issues it brings. Problems arise when people using the internet view it as a tool to commit unscrupulous acts like cybersex, pornography, gambling, cyberbullying amongst others. Students nowadays closely associate their lives with what the Internet brings to them. It has also the tendency to affect their mood and it is brought about by overusing the said information facility.

This Bill commits to establish a comprehensive program that will require a mandatory Internet safety education program for all students to prevent the problems arising from the misuse of the internet and other new media by guiding them to properly use the Internet.

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


LORNA C. SILVERIO

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

SEC 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the "Internet Safety Education Act"

SEC 2. Declaration of State Policy. It is the policy of the State to give importance to the children's welfare and look after their safety by all means.

SEC 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the terms:

- A.) "DepEd means the Department of Education
- B.) "Internet Safety Education Program" means an age-appropriate, research based program that encourages safe, ethical, and responsible use of the Internet, promotes an informed, critical understanding of the Internet, and educates children and communities about how to prevent or respond to problems or dangers related to the internet or new media;
- C.) "New Media"
 - 1.) Means emerging digital, computerized, or network informed and communication technologies that often have interactive capacities; and
 - 2.) Includes e-mail, instant messaging, text messaging, web sites, blogs, interactive gaming, social media, cellphones, and mobile devices;
- D.) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Education;

SEC 4. Implementing Agency and its duties.-

(A.) The Department of Education shall:

1. Identify, develop, and implement Internet Safety education programs, including educational technology, multimedia and interactive applications, online resources, and lesson plans;
2. Provide professional training to elementary and secondary teachers, administrators, and other staff on Internet safety and new media literacy;
3. Develop online risk prevention programs for children;
4. Train and support peer-driven Internet Safety education initiatives;
5. Coordinate and fund research initiatives that investigate online risks to children and Internet safety education;
6. Develop and implement public education campaigns to promote awareness of online risks to children and Internet safety education;
7. Educate parents about teaching their children how 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; or

(B.) The DepEd Secretary shall, within sixty days (60) from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate rules and regulations, including those of disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce provisions of this Act. Further, the DepEd shall be the lead agency in carrying out the following: the Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC 5. Appropriations. To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous operation of this program shall be included in the annual appropriation of the DepEd.

SEC 6. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 8. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulation, and other issuances or part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly

SEC 9. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

