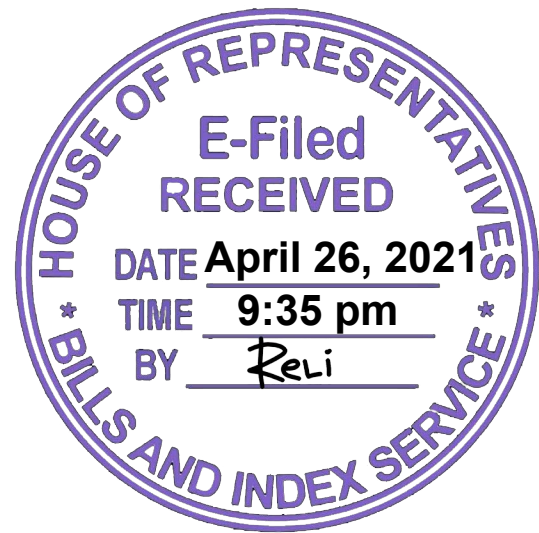




Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*Second Regular Session*

House Bill No. 9258

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**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”*

One of the greatest failures the world can ever have is for the love for knowledge and passion for learning to become more and more a thing of the past as time goes by. As we gain heaps of milestones in terms of technological advances, it is feared that such technological achievements also provide various distractions and disincentives for the youth to learn. It becomes increasingly difficult for people to distinguish false information, more popularly known as “fake news”, from facts that are backed by evidence and science; curiosity and critical thinking are starting to fade to obscurity.

Clearly, there is a need to re-awaken the people’s thirst for knowledge and passion for learning if we want to keep making the world a better place. The only way to do this is to educate as many people as we can through every means, channel, or platform available to them.

One such way is to revive the educational programs that we used to see regularly on television. In the Philippines, television is one of the main sources of entertainment of the people especially the general masses. It will be a very good

entry point for educating the public about sensible topics in the fields of Science, Mathematics, Arts, History, Language, and/or other academic disciplines. A television show can reach thousands of people, and if given a strategic time slot, it can very well reach very specific target audiences like the children. What more, television networks are, in fact, experts in finding a way to deliver its message in an engaging and entertaining manner to keep the interest of its intended viewers. Thus, it could serve as a great instrument to deliver educational and factual information to the public.

Having said the forgoing, this bill seeks to mandate all television networks to air a regular program of educational content for at least fifty (50) hours in a year in order to revive that love for knowledge and passion for learning in our people especially the children and the youth. We believe that television is a very powerful tool for education if it chooses to be so. Hence, this bill seeks to direct television networks to contribute in this noble objective of educating the public in a more direct, straightforward manner, free of fiction, sensationalism, drama, and inappropriate content.

*Eric L. Olivarez*  
**ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**



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2 **“ AN ACT MANDATING ALL TELEVISION NETWORKS TO AIR AT LEAST ONE (1)**  
3 **REGULAR PROGRAM OF PURELY EDUCATIONAL CONTENT**  
4 **RUNNING FOR AT LEAST FIFTY (50) HOURS PER YEAR”**

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

7 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “Educational Television Shows  
8 Act of 2021”.

9 **Section. 2. Policy of the State.** It shall hereby be declared as policy of the State to  
10 promote and uphold with utmost regard the passion for knowledge and the pursuit of  
11 excellence among its citizens particularly the youth.

12 **Section. 3. Television Show of Educational Content, Defined.** For purposes of this  
13 Act, a television show of educational content shall mean any television program the  
14 content of which is primarily based on factual information in the fields of Science,  
15 Mathematics, History, Arts, Language, and/or other academic subjects shown or aired  
16 with the main purpose of teaching, educating, and expanding the knowledge of the  
17 viewers, especially the children and the youth, on certain established scholastic truths  
18 and novel discoveries.

1 **Section. 4. *Mixed and Blended Television Programs.*** Television programs that are  
2 substantively loaded with sensationalism, drama, fictional plots especially those that  
3 tend to change, mix, blend, or bend scientific and historical truths or facts, public  
4 entertainment, and personal-opinion-heavy content shall not be considered as  
5 “educational television show” for purposes of this Act.

6 **Section. 5. *Television Programs With Incidental Educational Contents.*** Television  
7 shows primarily aimed at entertainment, but which may contain an incidental amount  
8 of educational content such as “medical drama”, “detective drama”, “political dramas”,  
9 “historical dramas” and other analogous shows shall not be considered as  
10 “educational television show” for purposes of this Act.

11 **Section. 6. *News and Public Affairs Programs.*** News and public affairs programs,  
12 while on its own merit a purveyor of current events and factual information, shall  
13 likewise not be covered as “educational television show” for purposes of this Act.

14 **Section. 7. *Mandatory Regular Airing of a Television Program of Educational Content.***  
15 All television networks operating under Philippine laws are hereby required to air at  
16 least one (1) regular program of educational content as defined in this Act, for at least  
17 fifty (50) hours in a year.

18 **Section. 8. *Monitoring System.*** The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)  
19 shall develop a system to monitor the compliance of all television networks on this Act.  
20 The NTC shall review and determine whether a television show can be classified or  
21 not as purely educational program in compliance with this Act. Should the NTC  
22 determine that certain episodes or significant portions of an episode of a regular  
23 program of educational content aired by a television network did not comply with the  
24 requirements set by this Act as to what constitutes “educational content”, it shall  
25 deduct the number of hours to the required fifty (50) hours of airtime and give notice  
26 to the television network to carry over the deducted number of hours the following  
27 year.

28 **Section. 9. *Reporting.*** All television networks shall make an annual reporting on their  
29 respective compliance of this Act. They shall submit the list of educational television  
30 programs to the NTC that were aired in a current year that complied with at least fifty  
31 (50) hours of education programs mandated by this Act subject to the provision of the  
32 preceding paragraph.

33 **Section. 10. *Development of Guidelines.*** The NTC shall develop guidelines on the  
34 proper implementation by the television networks of the provisions of this Act. Such  
35 guidelines shall, among others, ensure that television shows of educational content  
36 do not perpetuate or promote baseless, unfair, or discriminatory remarks and

1 stereotypes on gender, age, culture, religion, ethnicity, disability, and/or any form or  
2 kind of disease, whether directly or indirectly. The guidelines shall also ensure that the  
3 television show of educational content adopt a gender-, culture-, and disability-  
4 sensitive, and age-appropriate language at all times. The NTC shall develop the  
5 guidelines in close consultation with the relevant government agencies such as the  
6 Philippine Commission on Women, National Council on Disability Affairs, Council for  
7 the Welfare of Children, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, Department of  
8 Health, the Commission on Human Rights, and National Youth Commission, among  
9 other agencies, as well as academic experts whenever applicable.

10 **Section. 11. *Penalty.*** Failure to air a regular program of educational content in  
11 accordance with the provisions of this Act within one (1) year from the time it becomes  
12 effective, upon the determination of the NTC shall be a ground for the imposition of  
13 fine in the amount of P1,000,000.00. Once notice to the television networks for  
14 compliance has been issued by the NTC and the television networks still failed to  
15 comply, the NTC shall suspend the television network's license to operate until such  
16 time that the requirements of this Act are complied with.

17 **Section. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The National Telecommunications  
18 Commission in partnership with the Department of Education and the Commission on  
19 Higher Education shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, come up  
20 with the Implementing Rules and Regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of  
21 this Act.

22 **Section. 13. *Separability Clause.*** If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of  
23 this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected  
24 thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

25 **Sec. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules  
26 and regulations, and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent  
27 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

28 **Section. 15. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
29 publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation,  
30 whichever comes earlier

31 Approved.