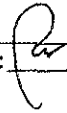




SENATE
S. No. 2674

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 29 August 2010, the Philippine Information Agency's portal was reportedly hacked. The site was down for several hours, with the words "Hacked by 7z1" appearing if searched for on Google. An error message was displayed whenever a user tried to enter PIA's website.

In the same week, the local government website of Bulacan was allegedly infiltrated by a Chinese hacker who demanded an apology for the Manila hostage tragedy that led to the death of eight Hong Kong tourists in 23 August.

The personal Facebook account of President Noyonoy Aquino, which is linked to his official website, has also been reportedly attacked over the hostage tragedy, prompting the President to censor his Facebook page.

According to news reports, this is not the first time that government websites have been hacked this year. In January 2010, hackers defaced the home page of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority website. One month before this breach, the websites of the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Justice, the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, and the Information Technology and Electronic Commerce Council were also allegedly hacked.¹

In order to help curb the alarming rise in cyber attacks, the Commission on Higher Education should encourage institutions of higher education to develop cybersecurity professional programs.

Hence, this bill authorizes the Commission on Higher Education to establish, in conjunction with the Department of Science of Technology, a program to award grants to

¹ <http://www.futuregov.asia/articles/2010/sep/05/hacker-attacks-stir-cyber-security-debate-philippi/>.

institutions of higher education for: (1) cybersecurity professional development programs; (2) associate degree programs in cybersecurity; and (3) the purchase of equipment to provide training in cybersecurity for either professional development or degree programs.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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SENATE
S. No. **2674**

'11 FEB -3 P3:07

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A
3 PROGRAM TO AWARD GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION
4 FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OR EXPANSION OF
5 CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Cybersecurity Education
7 Enhancement Act.”

8 SECTION 2. *Commission on Higher Education Cybersecurity Training Programs and*
9 *Equipment.* – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall establish, in conjunction with
10 the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), a program to award grants to institutions of
11 higher education (and consortia thereof) for:

12 (a) the establishment or expansion of cybersecurity professional development
13 programs;

14 (b) the establishment or expansion (or both) of associate degree programs in
15 cybersecurity; and

16 (c) the purchase of equipment to provide training in cybersecurity for either
17 professional development programs or degree programs.

18 SECTION 3. *Roles.* –

19 (a) CHED – The Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Science and
20 Technology, shall establish the goals for the program established under this Act and the criteria
21 for awarding grants.

22 (b) DOST – The Secretary shall operate the program established under this Act
23 consistent with the goals and criteria established under paragraph (a), including soliciting

1 applicants, reviewing applications, and making and administering awards. The Secretary shall
2 consult with the CHED in selecting awardees.

3 SECTION 4. *Awards.* –

4 (a) Peer Review. – All awards under this Act shall be provided on a competitive,
5 merit-reviewed basis.

6 (b) Focus. – In making awards under this Act, the Secretary shall, to the extent
7 practicable, ensure geographic diversity and the participation of women and underrepresented
8 minorities.

9 (c) Preference. – In making awards under this Act, the Secretary shall give preference
10 to applications submitted by consortia of institutions to encourage as many students and
11 professionals as possible to benefit from the program established under this Act.

12 SECTION 5. *Authorization of Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act,
13 there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year

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

17 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or
18 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

19 SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
20 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/fldp