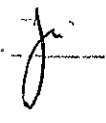


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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2499

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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AN ACT  
REGULATING THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF INTERNET  
CAFES, VIDEO AND COMPUTER GAME SHOPS AND OTHER  
ESTABLISHMENTS, PROVIDING COMPUTER SERVICES WITHIN THE  
VICINITY OF SCHOOLS, PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS, DAY CARE FACILITIES  
AND CHURCHES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cyber age made internet cafes and other computer-based businesses a very profitable venture for the owners and a necessary service for their clients. Youth and children have become patrons of these establishments, frequenting them even during class hours. Some students miss their classes, unconsciously or intentionally, because of their engrossment in computer activities.

Study, play, and pray time are essential to the development and well-being of our children, and to ensure that they are not robbed by computer activities, it is necessary to regulate the location of computer establishments.

In this light, this measure proposes to prohibit the establishment, operation or maintenance of video and computer game shops within the radius of five hundred (500) meters from schools, public playgrounds, day care facilities, and churches. This will be implemented under the auspices of the local government units.

This measure was filed by Senator Manny Villar in the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress but was not passed into law.


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

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

14 DEC -9 P3:56

SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 2499

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VICINITY OF SCHOOLS, PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS, DAY CARE FACILITIES  
AND CHURCHES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
2 to protect and promote the physical, moral, intellectual and social well-being of  
3 the youth. Pursuant to this policy, it shall regulate the operation and  
4 maintenance of internet cafes, video and computer game shops and such other  
5 computer-related services by prohibiting their operation within the radius of five  
6 hundred (500) meters from schools, public playgrounds, day care facilities and  
7 churches.  
8

9  
10 **SEC. 2.** No video and computer game shops shall be operated or maintained  
11 within the radius of five hundred (500) meters from schools, public playgrounds,  
12 day care facilities, and churches.  
13

14 In order to ensure compliance with this Section, video and computer game shops  
15 shall be required to install video monitoring systems within their establishments.  
16

17  
18 **SEC. 3.** Owners or operators of internet cafes and other establishments offering  
19 computer services located near schools, public playgrounds, day care centers  
20 and churches shall be required to provide a “lock out” and shall “disable”  
21 websites in internet that are inappropriate for children and students. They shall  
22 likewise be required to post a specific time schedule for the use of computers by  
23 children and young students; *Provided, however,* That they shall be allowed to  
24 use the same only upon presentation of their school identification cards and a  
25 school certification issued by the authorized school official to the necessity of the  
26 research work; *Provided, further,* That said computer establishments shall have  
27 safety policies and technologies in place; *Provided, finally,* That the owners of the  
28 establishments shall unlock or disable the filter upon request from adult  
29 customers.  
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**SEC. 4. *Role of Local Government Units.*** – Local government units concerned shall deputize their personnel to render an on-the-spot inspection of internet cafes, video and computer game shops, and such other computer-related services operating near the vicinity of the schools, playgrounds, day care centers and churches within their respective units; *Provided, however,* That they shall review files and communication within the computer establishments to maintain system integrity and ensure that children and students are using the system in a considerate and responsible manner.

**SEC. 5. *Penalties.*** – Owners or operators of internet cafes, video and computer game shops and such other establishments offering computer services found to have violated any provision of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment of one (1) year and/or a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00), or both at the discretion of the court; *Provided,* That in case of subsequent conviction, said establishment shall be closed and its license shall be permanently revoked.

**SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Health (DOH), shall formulate and issue such rules and regulations necessary for the proper implementation of the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree, executive order, or issuance, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

*Approved,*