

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
S. No. 1710

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 24 states that the State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building. As we move further into the Information Age, more and more people are logging in to the information superhighway, more commonly known as the Internet. In a recent survey taken by Synovate¹ on urban areas across the Philippines,² it was shown that about 36% of Filipinos from these areas have Internet access while 41% have mobile phones with Internet access.

As Internet usage increases, the perils likewise increase. Viruses, scam sites and sites with undesirable contents proliferate on a daily basis. To protect our people, our government must do what it can to aim our Internet users with useful information to combat the dangers that are spread across the world wide web.

This bill seeks to establish an office that will spearhead the information campaign that will keep our Internet users abreast with the latest online technologies and arm them with the knowledge against the perils of the Internet.³

[Signature]
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹Market research arm of Aegis Group Plc., a marketing services firm based in London

²Synovate's Nationwide Urban Media Atlas Survey 2007-2008 Wave 1

³This bill was originally filed during the 14th Congress 1st Regular Session

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1 AN ACT
2 TO IMPROVE PUBLIC AWARENESS REGARDING SAFE USE OF THE INTERNET
3 THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF INTERNET SAFETY AND
4 PUBLIC AWARENESS WITHIN THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
5 COMMISSION

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 "Safeguarding Filipinos by
7 Enhancing and Reorganizing New and Efficient Technologies Act" or the "SAFER NET Act."

8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The Constitution, Article 2, Section 24 states that
9 the State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building. The
10 State shall promote the safe and effective ways of using the internet as we head further into the
11 information age.

12 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -For purposes of this Act, the term:

13 (A) "Commission" means the National Telecommunications Commission;

14 (B) "Internet" means collectively the myriad of computer and telecommunications
15 facilities, including equipment and operating software, which comprise the
16 interconnected world-wide network of networks that employ the Transmission Control
17 Protocol/Internet Protocol, or any predecessor or successor protocols to such protocol, to
18 communicate information of all kinds by wire or radio;

19 (C) "Office" means the Office of Internet Safety and Public Awareness of the National
20 Telecommunications Commission, established by section 3.

21 SECTION 4. *Establishment of the Office.* - The National Telecommunications
22 Commission shall establish an Office of Internet Safety and Public Awareness, which shall have

1 responsibility for programs and activities relating to increasing public awareness and providing
2 education regarding Internet safety.

3 SECTION 5. *Director.* - The Office shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed
4 by the Commission.

5 SECTION 6. *Internet Safety.* - For purposes of this Act, the issue of Internet safety
6 includes issues regarding use of the Internet in a manner that promotes safe online activity,
7 including safe transactions involved in online commerce, and protects against threats to financial
8 information and privacy, threats from cyber-crime, and threats to juveniles, including
9 cyberpredators and material that is inappropriate for minors.

10 SECTION 7. *Duties.* -

11 (A) Activities- The Commission, acting through the Office, shall carry out a nationwide
12 program to increase public awareness and education regarding Internet safety, for families,
13 businesses, organizations, and other users, that utilizes existing resources and efforts of the
14 national and local governments, nonprofit organizations, private technology and financial
15 companies, Internet service providers, World Wide Web-based resources, and other appropriate
16 entities, that includes-

17 (1) evaluating Internet safety efforts and activities provided at various levels of
18 government and by other entities;

19 (2) improving efficiency of Internet safety efforts and activities, by eliminating
20 redundancy of efforts at various levels of government and other entities,
21 identifying, promoting, and expanding effective such efforts and activities and
22 coordinating among such efforts and activities;

23 (3) identifying, promoting, and encouraging best practices for Internet safety;

24 (4) establishing and carrying out a national outreach and education campaign
25 regarding Internet safety utilizing various media and Internet-based resources;

26 (5) serving as the primary contact in the national government, and as a national
27 clearinghouse, for information and public awareness efforts regarding Internet
28 safety;

1 (6) facilitating access to, and the exchange of, information regarding Internet
2 safety to promote up-to-date knowledge regarding current issues;

3 (7) providing expert advice and consultation to the Commission regarding Internet
4 safety issues; and

5 (8) providing assistance, including technical assistance and financial assistance
6 under subsection (B), units of local government, schools, police departments,
7 nonprofit organizations,⁴ and such other entities as the Office considers
8 appropriate to promote Internet safety education and public awareness.

9 (B) Grants and Contracts-

10 (1) In carrying out this subsection, the Commission, acting through the Office,
11 may make grants, to the extent amounts are provided in advance in appropriation
12 Acts for such grants, to, and enter into cooperative agreements, contracts, and
13 interagency agreements with units of local government, schools, police
14 departments, non-profit organizations, and such other public and private agencies,
15 entities, and organizations as the Office considers appropriate.

16 (2) The Commission, acting through the Office, shall provide for evaluations of
17 projects and activities carried out with financial assistance provided under
18 paragraph (1) of this subsection and for the dissemination of information
19 developed as a result of such projects.

20 SECTION 8. *Annual Reports.* -The Commission, acting through the Office, shall submit
21 a report not later than March 31 of each year that-

22 (A) describes the activities of the Office during the preceding calendar year;

23 (B) contains any evaluations performed pursuant to Section (7)(B)(2) for any projects and
24 activities carried out during the preceding calendar with assistance 28 under Section
25 (7)(B)(1);

26 (C) describes and analyzes the current state, as of the preparation of such report, of
27 Internet safety, existing and emerging threats to Internet safety, and costs to the
28 Philippine economy resulting from preventing, responding to, eliminating, and otherwise
29 dealing with threats to Internet safety.

1 SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
2 hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

3 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
4 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
5 valid and subsisting.

6 SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
7 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
8 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

9 SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

11 Approved,