

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

Office of the Secretary

DEC -9 P2:42

SENATE  
S. No. 2490

BY: *[Signature]*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

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 Noynoy 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.<sup>1</sup>

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 (DOST), a program to award grants to 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. The bill also requires the DOST Secretary to operate the program.<sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> This bill was originally filed by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee before the U.S. House of Representatives (113<sup>th</sup> Congress).



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

DEC -9 02:42

SENATE  
S. No. 2490

Y: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           SECTION 3. *Roles.* –

2           (1) CHED – The Chairperson, in consultation with the DOST Secretary, shall  
3 establish the goals for the program established under this Act and the criteria for  
4 awarding grants.

5           (2) DOST – The Secretary shall operate the program established under this Act  
6 consistent with the goals and criteria established under paragraph (1), including soliciting  
7 applicants, reviewing applications, and making and administering awards. The Secretary  
8 may consult with the Chairperson of CHED in selecting awardees.

9           SECTION 4. *Awards.* –

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

12          (2) Focus. – In making awards under this Act, the DOST Secretary shall, to the  
13 extent practicable, ensure geographic diversity and the participation of women and  
14 underrepresented minorities.

15          (3) Preference. – In making awards under this Act, the DOST Secretary shall give  
16 preference to applications submitted by consortia of institutions, to encourage as many  
17 students and professionals as possible to benefit from the program established under this  
18 Act.

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

22          SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared  
23 unconstitutional, any other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and  
24 effect.

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

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

Approved,

/fldpnov2014