

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4690



Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
INTEGRATING MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY IN THE BASIC EDUCATION
CURRICULUM


EXPLANATORY NOTE

Digital technology has become a vital part of our lives. Through our smartphones, laptops, computers, tablets, and other technologies, we have at our fingertips a vast source of references and information which we could utilize to improve our lives. As beneficial digital technology has been to our day-to-day transactions, it is also however used for harmful and unscrupulous activities. One pressing problem with the overwhelming amount of information readily available on the internet (and the widespread misinformation on social media) is knowing the veracity of data.

As such, there is a need to introduce media and information literacy to the younger generations to encourage responsible, productive, and ethical use of the internet. This measure proposes the integration of media and information literacy programs into our basic education curriculum. Under this proposal, media and information literacy shall be incorporated as essential components in the teaching of core subjects and enrichment activities for the students. It aims to incorporate into their daily learning routine exercises content analysis, fact-checking, and information validation, among others that will be useful as they deal with the overwhelming amount of information online. Through this proposed measure, we hope to develop a generation of creative and critical thinkers, and dynamic participants in our democratic processes.

In addition, it seeks to re-establish social media, through education, as powerful platforms for intellectual exchange of ideas, sources of empowering information, and meaningful discourse, rather than channels of hatred, disunity, and confusion.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Media and Information Literacy Act”.

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and promotes and protects their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. The State also recognizes the role of all educational institutions in the inculcation of patriotism and nationalism, fostering a love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teaching the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthening ethical and spiritual values, developing moral character and personal discipline, encouraging critical and creative thinking, broadening scientific and technological knowledge, and promoting vocational efficiency.

Towards this end, the State shall formulate and implement educational policies that encourage critical and creative thinking, intellectual discipline, and civic participation and responsibility among the youth.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, “Media and Information Literacy” shall refer to a set of cognitive and practical skills in finding, accessing, organizing, evaluating, interpreting, and creating information across mass media and online platforms. Evaluation involves the analysis of the context, value, reliability, accuracy, and truthfulness of available information, reports, and content, data, and images.

Sec. 4. Integration of Media and Information Literacy in Basic Education Curriculum.
– It is hereby mandated that Media and Information Literacy shall be integrated into the basic education curriculum implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd).

Media and Information Literacy shall be incorporated as an essential component into the teaching of core subjects and enrichment activities for the students. The DepEd shall develop instructional strategies, tools, and pedagogies to implement this Act.

Sec. 5. Coverage of Media and Information Literacy Program. – Media and Information Literacy program shall promote active citizenship, respect for others, socio-cultural diversity, and honesty; train and develop creative and critical thinking; and encourage responsible use of online platforms. The program would include activities and exercises about source verification, content validation, and analysis, fact-checking, information appreciation, and comprehension, among others.

Sec. 6. Review and assessment. – The DepEd shall conduct a periodic review of the integration of the Media and Information Literacy program into the basic education curriculum to ensure its proper implementation and assess student learning outcomes to determine its efficacy. An annual report shall be submitted to the Committees on Basic Education of both houses of Congress within thirty (30) days from the termination of the review and assessment.

Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec. 9. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,