



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH (19th) CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9591

Introduced by: Hon. Ma. Victoria Co – Pilar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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Digital literacy education holds immense significance in the Philippines for several compelling reasons. It plays a pivotal role in expanding access to information and resources, ensuring that knowledge is accessible across the diverse population. Moreover, it fosters education and skills development, enabling students and professionals to benefit from e-learning opportunities, especially in remote or underserved regions. Digital literacy also bolsters employability, as it equips individuals with the skills required in an increasingly digitized job market, spanning a wide range of industries. Furthermore, a digitally literate workforce contributes to economic growth by enhancing productivity and competitiveness through the effective use of digital tools.

Additionally, digital literacy facilitates financial inclusion, empowering Filipinos to access and use digital financial services, reducing reliance on cash transactions. It empowers citizens to engage with government services and participate in governance through e-government initiatives, making interactions with government agencies more efficient. In the realm of healthcare, digital literacy is pivotal, particularly in rural areas, as it enables access to telemedicine services, health information, and online consultations. It also plays a vital role in raising awareness about cybersecurity risks and practices, safeguarding individuals from online threats. Furthermore, digital literacy fosters social and cultural exchange, enabling connections with diverse perspectives and enriching social interactions. It contributes to disaster preparedness by providing access to timely warnings, emergency information, and facilitating relief efforts through digital means. Moreover, digital literacy supports environmental awareness by granting access to information on environmental issues and sustainable practices, aligning with global competitiveness as it prepares Filipinos for international trade, communication, and collaboration.

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF DIGITAL LITERACY EDUCATION
AS A COURSE IN THE ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, TERTIARY, AND
TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN ALL PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “***Digital Literacy Education Act***
2 ***of the Philippines.***”

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote digital
5 literacy, cybersecurity, and digital etiquette among its citizens through strengthening the
6 foundation of digital network awareness and education throughout all the stages in the
7 Philippine education system in recognition of this essential life skill as a vital tool in improving
8 the socio-economic welfare of all Filipinos towards eventually developing a more sustainable
9 economy in the long-term.

10
11 **SEC. 3. *Integration of Digital Literacy as a Separate Course in the Curriculum*** – The
12 Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical
13 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall be tasked to include Digital
14 Literacy education in their respective existing and prevailing curriculum for all students. They
15 shall collaborate with the Department of Information and Communications Technology
16 (DICT), National Privacy Commission (NPC), and Department of Science and Technology
17 (DOST) in developing academic standards and curriculum content for the purpose of this bill.

1 **SEC. 4. *Appropriations*** – Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be
2 included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and
3 thereafter.

4
5 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations***. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity
6 of this Act, the DepEd, CHED, TESDA, DICT, NPC, and DOST shall promulgate the rules
7 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

8
9 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause***. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda,
10 rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Acts are hereby
11 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

12
13 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause***. – If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional
14 or invalid, the remaining parts of provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

15
16 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity***. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
17 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

18
19
20 **Approved,**