

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

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

P.S. Resolution No. 241

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VILLAR

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING INCIDENCE OF CRIMES AND VIOLATIONS RESULTING FROM SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES LIKE FACEBOOK, FRIENDSTER, TWITTER AND OTHERS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ENACTING A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD PROTECT INTERNET USERS

WHEREAS, Article II of the 1987 Constitution makes it the policy of the State to promote *“the natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government”* and *“protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being”*;

WHEREAS, Section 17 of the said article provides that *“the State shall give priority to education, science and technology, xxx”*;

WHEREAS, about thirty percent (30 %) of the Philippines’ population has Internet access mostly through Internet Café’s, while nearly one in two Filipinos has a mobile phone with most phones web-capable;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that Filipinos are among the most active users of social networking sites in Asia, the Philippines having been known as the world’s leader in text messaging for sending an average of 200 million text messages a day;

WHEREAS, this access to the Internet has also opened a window for sex offenders to find their victims by accessing their online profiles on networking sites, the same serving a conduit for perpetuating the offense by keeping the identity of the offender hidden by a veil of anonymity in the World Wide Web;

WHEREAS, the police are already investigating cases wherein the suspects used Facebook and text messages to lure people, specially minors, into engaging in sexual activities, part of this device or scheme is to use the online networking system of establishing “clans” and inviting youths to join where part of the initiation includes participation in sexual activities;

WHEREAS, there is a need for the legislature to come up with measures that will ensure the protection of users of networking sites as well as provide for a means to punish the offenders who make use of this technology to commit an offense;

NOW, WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate to direct the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations and the Committee on Science and Technology to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the increasing incidence of crimes and violations resulting from social networking sites like Facebook, Friendster, Twitter and others with the objective of enacting a legislative framework that would protect internet users.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR