

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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SENATE

S.B. NO. 143

Introduced by Senator LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There is an inherent need to ensure the total human development and the protection and promotion of the well-being of the youth, who comprise almost two-thirds of the population and are considered the hope of the country. In fact the Constitution, in recognition of the vital role of the youth in nation-building, mandates the State under Article II, Section 13, "to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs." Furthermore, under Section 14, "the State shall protect and promote the right of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Considering that majority of the youth are of school age, one way to carry out these constitutional provisions, is to declare the university belt in Manila and all other school, college or university sites or campuses, whether public or private, as drug-free zones and child protection zones. Drug-free zones refer to the total ban on drugs, alcoholic drinks, lewd shows, pornographic or obscene materials and its effective implementation in and around school sites within a three (3) kilometer radius. Child protection zones, on other hand, refer to the undertaking of protective measures for children within a three (3) kilometer radius such as but not limited to providing for (A) food products inspection within the Zone, (B) marshals to aid the children against criminal activity and for safety, (C) child assistance centers, and (D) crowding out of criminal elements within the zone.

This bill seeks to declare the schools, colleges and universities as drug-free and child protection zones, hence, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
TO DECLARE THE UNIVERSITY BELT AREA IN MANILA AND ALL
OTHER SCHOOL SITES OR CAMPUSES IN THE COUNTRY WHETHER
PUBLIC OR PRIVATE AS DRUG-FREE AND CHILD PROTECTION
ZONES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

Section 1. **Statement of Policy.** - The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Pursuant to these provisions of the Constitution, the Zonal Protection Policy as is understood in Section 3 hereof be adopted by the Government.

Section 2. **Coverage.** - This Act shall apply to all persons, students, faculty members, parents, school and government personnel involved with or related to a public or private school, college or university. Business or commercial and other public or private

establishments and other persons within the Drug-Free Zone or Child Protection Zone are also subject to the provisions of this Act.

Section 3. **Declaration.** - The University Belt Area in Manila, and all other school, college or university site or campus whether public or private are hereby declared to be drug-free zones and child protection zones. Drug-free zones refer to the total ban on drugs, alcoholic drinks, lewd shows, pornographic or obscene materials and its effective implementation in and around school sites within a three (3) kilometer radius. Child protection zone refer to the undertaking of protective measure for children within a 3- kilometer radius such as but not limited to:

- A) Provision for inspection of all food products within the 3 kilometers radius;
- B) Provision for marshals to aid the children against criminal activity and for safety;
- C) Provision for child assistance centers and the equipment necessary to implement the provisions of this Act;
- D) Provision for crowding out of criminal elements within the child protection zone.

Section 4. **Effects of Declaration.** -

- A) All schools, establishments and personnel within the zones shall be under the governance of the Council established under section 5 hereof, which shall be tasked to implement the provisions of this Act;
- B) Search and seizure authority is hereby vested in the Council;

- C) A warrant of arrest shall be dispensed with for the arrest of persons having criminal records or conviction found within the Zones;
- D) The legal periods for detention of persons involved in criminal offense within the zone shall also be dispensed with;
- E) After due inspection, the closure of all establishments within the zone found to be violating the provisions of this Act, is also vested in the Council.

Section 5. **Drug -Free Zone Council/Child Protection Zone Council.** – For the University Belt Area and other school sites or clusters of the same, there is hereby established a Drug-Free Zone Council, and Child Protection Zone Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) which shall implement the provisions of this Act.

- A. *Composition.* - The Council shall be composed of the following members:
 - a) The head of the school or one chosen from among them if school clusters are involved;
 - b) An Undersecretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
 - c) A representative of the Mayor(s) of the city or municipality involved;
 - d) An Undersecretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
 - e) President of the Student Council;
 - f) President of Parents Teachers Association (PTA);
 - and
 - g) Chairman to be appointed by the President.

- B. *Term of Office.* - The term of office of the members of the Council shall be for five (5) years with re-appointment.
- C. *Functions.* - The Council shall have the following functions:
- a) To formulate a program of action to effectively implement the provisions of this Act;
 - b) To submit a monthly progress report with the President and Congress with respect to the implementation of the provisions of this Act;
 - c) To coordinate with other government agencies in implementing the plan and other programs of the council;
 - d) To provide for a reward and/or incentive system necessary for the effective implementation of this Act; and
 - e) Such other functions incidental or necessary for the implementation of this Act.

Section 6. **Funding/Appropriations.** - The primary source of funds for the use of the Council shall be from the private sector contributions or other local or foreign grants. In addition, the President shall allocate the amount necessary for the needs of the Council from the budget of the Office of the President.

Section 7. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Council, in

coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), shall issue and publish the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

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

Section 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 is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,