

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

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S. No. 738

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The alarming rate of environmental degradation today underscores the need to preserve and protect the ecological foundation of Mother Earth.

The environmental issues and concerns besetting us, like ozone layer depletion and global warming, are becoming to technical and complicated for the general public to understand. There is a need to extensively educate the people to instill and promote public awareness of the need to enhance environmental quality and maintain ecological balance. Adequate assistance should be given to the people to enable them to understand the consequences of the increasing demands of infrastructure development on the environment, and their responsibility to maintain environmental stability so that future generations may enjoy their share of the fruits of the earth. Wanton destruction of the environment may thus be prevented and sustainable development achieved.

This bill will create a massive and comprehensive education and training campaign needed for the success of public policy on environmental issues. Through popularization of the issues, private initiative in the protection of the environment will be enhanced. Hence, its immediate passage is most urgently requested.



MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT CREATING THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION,
DEFINING IT'S FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 “National Environmental Education Act of 2004.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the sustainable use, development, management renewal and conservation of the country's forest, mineral, land off-shore areas and other natural resources. The State shall protect and enhance the quality of the environment and provide equitable access of the different segments of the population to the development and use of the country's natural resources, not only for the present generation but for future generations as well.

SEC. 3. Creation of the Office of Environmental Education – there is hereby created an office of environmental education, (hereinafter referred to as the OFFICE), which shall be regular division of the Department of Environment and Natural resources.

SEC. 4. Mandate – The Office shall be the primary government agency responsible for the environmental education and training of all sectors of the society.

SEC. 5. Functions and Responsibilities – In pursuit of it's mandate the OFFICE shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a) develop and implement a national integrated and comprehensive action plan for environmental education and training:

b) encourage understanding of policies and support of activities designed to enhanced environmental quality and maintain ecological balance:

c) formulate and prescribe expanded and varied program of curriculum development to include value formation and behavioral change on environmental concerned issues for schools, colleges and universities;

d) provide support for the initiation and maintenance of programs for environmental education for the general public;

e) design and conduct massive information dissemination campaigns and environmental education and training programs;

f) exercise such other functions as may be necessary in pursuit of its mandate;

g) deputize or request the assistance of appropriate government agencies, local government units and non-governmental organizations for the purpose of implementing this Act.

SEC. 6. Organization – the authority and the responsibility for the implementation of the mandate of the OFFICE and the exercise of its functions and responsibilities shall be vested in the executive Director of the office. He shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Environment and natural resources. He shall:

a) exercise overall supervision and control relative to the functions and activities of the OFFICE;

b) establish policies and standards for the efficient and effective cooperation of the OFFICE in accordance with the overall program of the government;

c) implement rules, regulations and other issuances necessary in executing policies, plans projects and programs of the OFFICE;

d) perform such other functions as, may be provided by law or as appropriately assigned by the President or the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural resources.

SEC. 7. Staff of the Authority – To achieve its desired goals and objectives, the OFFICE, through the Executive Director shall organize its working staff of not less than ten employees, fix to their salaries and remunerations, subject tot the provisions of the Civil Service Law.

SEC. 8. National, Environmental Education Advisory Council – There is hereby created a National Environmental Education, and Advisory Council composed of representatives appointed by the respective Department Secretary/University President, who shall serve as ex-officio members from the following agencies:

a) Department of Environment and natural Resources

b) Department of education, Culture and Sports

c) Department of Science and Technology

d) Philippine Information Agency

e) University of the Philippines

The Advisory Council shall be primary tasked to advise the Executive Director on the design and promulgation of policies, methods, techniques, programs and projects relative to environmental education and training, and to monitor and evaluate the overall performance of the OFFICE and recommend necessary measures thereon.

SEC. 9. Transitory Provision – The Secretary of Environment and natural Resources shall oversee the implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 10. Appropriations – the amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current fiscal year appropriations of the Department of environment and natural Resources. The succeeding appropriations shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the fiscal year immediately following the effectivity of this Act and every year thereafter.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause – If for any cause, any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the rest of the provisions shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause – All acts, decrees, general orders, letters of instructions, regulations and circulars, or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,