

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

JUL 24 P4:00

SENATE
S. No. 2323

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CENTER FOR THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF
STRATEGIES ON CAMPUS SAFETY

The Constitution, Article 2, provides:

Sec. 13. 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...

Article 14, provides:

Sec. 4 (1) The State recognizes the complementary roles of public
and private institutions in the educational system and shall exercise
reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions...

Recently, two incidents of violence involving college students have been in the news. The first is about a sophomore student at the De La Salle-College of St. Benilde (DLS-CSB), who died after a hazing ritual; the second is about a 17-year old student of the University of the Philippines, whose family plans to take legal action against the Upsilon Sigma Phi fraternity after the student sustained severe life-threatening injuries following his initiation into the fraternity.

Hazing is not the only kind of threat to a student's safety and well-being. Students, faculty and staff from colleges or institutions of higher education are vulnerable

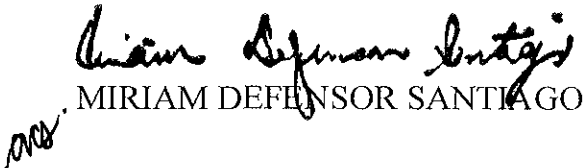
or have actually experienced various types of danger. These include: fraternity-related violence, sexual abuse, theft, robbery and other unfortunate situations.

Hazards to safety can be both internal and external. College students themselves, can be the source of irresponsible and even criminal behavior. For teenagers, it is not unusual to undergo bouts of depression, insecurity or to succumb to peer pressure. They are exposed to violent media, and drugs and alcohol are accessible. Unfortunately, not all teens react to these situations in a mature fashion.

Though it would be impossible for the school authorities to prevent every single episode of violence involving students, all schools should take steps to create a safer environment that is conducive to learning. However, to be able to create such an environment, the school authorities must be able to address issues which concern the youth that can lead to anti-social, violent or criminal behaviour. This requires a certain level of competence and skill in understanding these underlying factors and creating the necessary solutions.

It is obvious that not all campuses are equipped with administrative and security personnel with such competence and skill; hence, the state must come to the assistance of these college campuses. In other countries¹, the alarming increase in incidents of sexual abuse in college campuses has spurred the state to invest in strategies focused on increasing the safety of students and guide them in making more responsible decisions.

This bill establishes a center for research and development on strategies for the promotion and maintenance of safety and security within the campuses of institutions of higher education.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This proposed legislation is based on a bill filed in the US House of Representatives as H.R.359.

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A CENTER FOR THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIES ON CAMPUS SAFETY

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the, "Saved by the Bell Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to assist schools increase the safety of students, protect persons and property inside campuses, and enhance the well-being of all those inside schools.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of a Center for research and development on strategies for the promotion of Safety on Campus.* - There shall be established, under the Department of Justice, a Center for Campus Safety hereinafter referred to as CCS. The Executive Director of the Office shall be appointed by the President.

The CCS shall have the following functions:

(A) Foster research and develop management strategies and practices to strengthen, promote and maintain the safety and security of institutions of higher education;

(B) Serve as a clearinghouse for the identification and dissemination of information, policies, protocols, procedures, and best practices relevant to campus public safety, including off-campus housing safety, the prevention of

1 violence against persons and property, and emergency response and
2 evacuation procedures;

3 (C) Promote cooperation, collaboration, and consistency in prevention, response,
4 and problem-solving methods among public safety and emergency
5 management personnel of institutions of higher education and their campus
6 and non-campus-based collaborative partners, including law enforcement,
7 emergency management, mental health services, and other relevant agencies;

8 (D) Consult with experts and stakeholders on current youth issues;

9 (E) Provide education and conduct training programs on campus safety to local
10 police, security personnel of institutions of higher education and their
11 collaborative partners, including campus health agencies;

12 (F) Evaluate current national and local programs related to safety inside campuses,
13 and develop general guidelines for schools.

14 SECTION 4. *Board of Directors.* - The powers of the CCS shall be vested in and
15 exercised by a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be
16 composed of the following members:

17 A. Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ), who shall chair the Board;

18 B. Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;

19 C. Chairperson of CHED;

20 D. Chairperson of the National Youth Commission;

21 E. A representative of an association of private schools; and

22 F. A member of a Parents-Teachers Association;

23 G. A member of a youth organization with a national membership.

24 SECTION 5. *The Executive Director.* —The Executive Director shall be appointed
25 by the President. The Executive Director shall be the chief executive of the CCS and shall

1 exercise direct control and supervision over the internal operations, personnel and
2 representatives of the CCS. He or she is also authorized to represent the CCS in its
3 transactions.

4 SECTION 6. *Schools to develop a campus security program.* – All institutions of
5 higher education shall establish a program to improve safety and enhance security for all
6 person within their campus. In creating this program, they shall consult with the CCS.

7 SECTION 7. *Authorization of Appropriations.* - To carry out the provisions of this
8 Act, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each
9 fiscal year.

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

13 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
14 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,
15 or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
16 accordingly.

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

Approved.

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