


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

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SENATE

FILED BY: 

S.B. No. 928

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The alarming rate of environmental degradation merits our increasing concern for the need to protect and preserve the ecological foundation of Mother Earth. For the past few years, the science of environment has become more and more complex.

Environmental issues and concerns, like ozone depletion and global warming, are becoming too technical and complicated for the general public to understand. There is an urgent 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 is imperative to enable them to understand the consequences of the increasing demands of development on the environment and its resources, and their responsibility to maintain environmental stability so that future generations may enjoy their share of the environment's benefits and rewards. In so doing, 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, it is hoped that private initiative in the protection of the environment will be enhanced. Hence, its immediate passage is urgently requested.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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04 JUN 30 PM 1:18

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AN ACT

CREATING THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, DEFINING ITS
FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE,
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.

SECTION 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, offshore areas and other natural resources, including
the protection and enhancement of the quality of the environment, and 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 as well as.

In order to efficiently sustain this commitment, a program of environmental
education to instill and promote public awareness on environmental issues is
necessary.

SECTION 3. **Creation of the Office of Environmental Education.** – There is
hereby created an Office of environment Education, hereinafter referred to as the
OFFICE which shall be a regular division of the Department of Environment and Natural
Resources.

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

SECTION 5. *Functions and Responsibilities.* – In pursuit of its 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 activities designed to enhance environmental quality and maintain ecological balance;

c. formulate and prescribe an expanded and varied program of curriculum development to include value formation and behavioral change on environment concerns and issues for schools, college 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 campaign and environmental education and training programs;

f. deputized or request the assistance of appropriate government agencies, local government units and non-governmental organizations for the purpose of implementing this Act;

g. exercise such other functions as may be necessary in pursuit of its mandate.

SECTION 6. *Organization.* – The authority and the responsibility for the implementation of the mandate of the OFFICE and the exercise of its function 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.

The Executive Director shall have the following functions:

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 operation of the OFFICE in accordance with the overall program of 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 approximately assigned by the President or the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

SECTION 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 their salaries and remunerations, subject to the provisions of the Civil Service Law.

SECTION 8. **National Environment Education Advisory Council.** – There is hereby created a National Environmental Education 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 primarily 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.

SECTION 9. **Transitory Provision.** – The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall oversee the implementation of this Act within 90 days after its effectivity.

SECTION 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 appropriation for the Office shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act for the fiscal year immediately following the effectivity of this Act and every year thereafter.

SECTION 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 in effect.

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

SECTION 13. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,