

SENATE  
S.B. No. 1504

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution, Article II, Section 13 provides:

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 civil affairs.

The potential of the youth to make lasting contributions to freedom's cause is unparalleled. Yet, some serious flaws have appeared in our social and cultural fabric, characterized by destructive behaviors among some of our youth, that are damaging our country and the ability of this generation to achieve its full potential.

The purpose of this bill is to establish a National Commission on the impact of Filipino culture on the youth in order to investigate and make findings and recommendations with respect to —

- (1) the condition and status of contemporary youth compared to prior generations, with particular attention to family, neighborhood, schools, scholastic attainment, work, and community involvement;
- (2) the nature, origins, and trends of antisocial and violent behavior among the youth;
- (3) the impact of western culture on the youth, through the pervasive influence of media;
- (4) recommendations for averting and reducing violence among the youth; and
- (5) recommendations for parents, families, non-governmental and private sector organizations and local authorities in building positive developmental experiences among the youth.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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**AN ACT  
TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE IMPACT OF  
FILIPINO CULTURE ON THE YOUTH**

*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 "Youth Commission Act."

SECTION 2. *Establishment.* - There is established a commission to be known as the "National Commission on the Impact of Filipino Culture on the Youth" (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

SECTION 3. *Duty of the Commission.* - The Commission shall investigate and make findings and recommendations with respect to -

(1) the condition and status of contemporary youth compared to prior generations, with particular attention to family, neighborhood, schools, scholastic attainment, work, and community involvement;

(2) the nature, origins, and trends of anti-social and violent behavior among the youth, including -

(a) an analysis of the trends in violent acts in families, neighborhoods, and schools; and

(b) the influence of organizations, other cultural elements, and individuals contributing to the incitement or encouragement of violent behaviors;

(3) identification of successful initiatives that involve the youth in positive development and experiences that curb anti-social behavior among the youth;

(4) the impact of western culture on the youth, including both its positive and negative effects on them;

(5) recommendations for averting and reducing violence among the youth; and

(6) recommendations for parents, families, non-governmental and private sector organizations and local authorities in building positive developmental experiences among the youth.

#### SECTION 4. *Membership* --

(1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT -- The Commission shall be composed of 11 members appointed as follows:

(a) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(b) Two members appointed by the Senate President.

(c) Six members appointed by the President. The members shall be specially qualified to serve on the Commission by reason of education, training, or experience.

(d) The Chairperson of the National Youth Commission shall automatically sit as member in an *ex officio* capacity.

(2) TERMS --

(a) IN GENERAL -- Each member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(b) VACANCIES -- A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(3) BASIC PAY -- Members shall serve without pay.

(4) TRAVEL EXPENSES -- Each member shall receive travel expenses, and reimbursement for actual expenses made pursuant to the discharge of his function as member of the Commission.

(5) QUORUM -- Seven members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

(6) CHAIR -- The Chairperson of the National Youth Commission shall automatically be the Chair of the Commission.

SECTION 5. *Powers of the Commission.* –

(1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS – The Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate. The Commission shall ensure that its hearings and sessions are open to the public, with significant opportunities for testimony from members of the general public.

(2) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS – Any member or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action which the Commission is authorized to take by this Section.

(3) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA – The Commission may secure directly from any department or agency information necessary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the head of that department or agency shall cooperate with the Commission in providing that information.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES – Upon determination of the Commission, the National Youth Commission shall provide the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act.

SECTION 6. *Report.* –

(1) INTERIM REPORT – The Commission shall transmit an interim report to the President and the Congress not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the date the Commission is duly organized.

(b) FINAL REPORT – The Commission shall transmit a final report to the President and the Congress not later than one (1) year after the date the Commission is duly organized. The final report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commission, together with its recommendation for legislation.

SECTION 7. *Termination.* – The Commission shall terminate thirty (30) days after transmitting its final report pursuant to section 6(2).

SECTION 8. *Authorization of Appropriations* – There is authorized to be appropriated such sum as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. *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 11. *Effectivity Clause*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

FN: 1905