

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

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SENATE
S. B. No. 1655

FILED BY: pu

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 11, provides:

The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

Republic Act. No. 7877, also know as the "Anti-Sexual Harassment Act," declares unlawful all forms of sexual harassment committed in the employment, education, or training environment.

Sexual harassment is still prevalent, particularly in campuses. Unfortunately, students are neither aware of acts constituting sexual harassment, nor of procedures to be followed in case an act of sexual harassment has been committed.

Hence, this bill seeks to require institutions of higher education to widely distribute information describing their procedures for receiving and responding to complaints concerning harassment.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT
TO REQUIRE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO WIDELY DISTRIBUTE
INFORMATION DESCRIBING THEIR PROCEDURES FOR RECEIVING AND
RESPONDING TO COMPLAINTS CONCERNING HARASSMENT

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be as the “Sexual Harassment Awareness Reporting and Posting Act.”

SECTION 2. *Harassment Procedure Disclosures Required.* – Both public and private institutions of higher education as well as degree-granting programs in all post-secondary educational institutions, public and private, shall carry out appropriate and reasonable information dissemination activities for prospective and enrolled students (including those attending or planning to attend less than full time) regarding the procedures established by such institutions for receiving and responding to complaints regarding sexual harassment. Such dissemination activities shall include –

(1) distribution to enrolled students (along with the distribution of information concerning enrollment in the institution) of information –

(A) identifying the acts that constitute sexual harassment;

(B) stating that sexual harassment is illegal; and

(C) describing the procedures to be followed to file a sexual harassment complaint and to receive services and assistance for the victim.

(2) posting of the information described in paragraph (1) through bulletins widely distributed among the buildings, classrooms, and student organizations, and other facilities on the campus of such institution.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with the Secretary of Justice, is hereby authorized to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act not later than ninety (90) days after the enactment of this Act.

SECTION 4. *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 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.