



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

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SENATE
S. B. No. 1697

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 13, provides:

Section 13. The State recognizes the 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.

Service to the community is a responsibility of all Filipinos, regardless of their economic level or age. Serving others builds self-esteem and teaches teamwork, decision-making, and problem solving.

Students, from kindergarten to college, offer a powerful and largely untapped resource for community service. The government, therefore, should encourage students to engage in productive work with visible community benefits in a natural resource or human service setting, in order to give them a mix of work experience, basic and life skills education, training, and support services.

Children who become engaged in community service early will understand better the responsibilities of citizenship and often continue to serve the community into adulthood. To this end, this bill seeks to establish a program that will expand opportunities for students to serve their communities.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO *[Signature]*

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FILIPINO
STUDENTS TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

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 known as the “Service to the Philippines Act.”

SECTION 2. *Purpose.* – The purposes of this Act are —

- (1) to enable the call to service to begin in the earliest grades, to grow into sustained community action in secondary schools and colleges, and to become a lifelong habit;
- (2) to provide students with service opportunities;
- (3) to build on the existing organizational framework provided by educational agencies, schools, institutions of higher education, and community agencies;
- (4) to promote the expansion of summer of this title —

SECTION 3. *Definition.* – For purposes of this Title —

- (1) The term “community-based agency” means a private nonprofit organization that is representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and that is engaged in meeting human, social, educational, or environmental community needs.
- (2) The term “education institution” means elementary or secondary school, institution of higher education, or a community-based agency that provides educational services.
- (3) The term “appropriate government agency” means a public agency that is engaged in meeting human, social, educational, or environmental needs.
- (4) The term “participant” means a student or out-of-school youth who provides services pursuant to a program provided in this Act.

(5) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

(6) The term "service opportunity" means a program or project enabling students to perform meaningful and constructive service in agencies, institutions, and situations where the application of human talent and dedication may help to meet, human, social, educational, and environmental community needs, especially those relating to poverty.

(7) The term "student" means an individual who is enrolled full-time or part-time in an elementary or secondary school or institution of higher education.

SECTION 4. *School and Campus Based Community Service.* – The Secretary shall, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, National Youth Commission, Department of Social Welfare and Development and other appropriate government agencies and community-based agencies, establish a national program that will provide opportunities for students work with visible community. Such comprehensive program shall provide productive work with visible community benefits in a natural resource or human service setting and give participants a mix of work experience basic and life skills education, training and support services.

SECTION 5. *Incorporation in the Curriculum.* - Such program shall be incorporated into the curriculum as a separate subject and shall require students, before they are allowed to graduate from elementary, high school or college, as the case may be, to render community service by participating in the program.

SECTION 6. *Program Components.* – The Secretary, in carrying out the program, shall:

(1) encourage cooperative efforts among education institutions, local government agencies, community-based agencies, business to provide service opportunities, including those that involve the participation of urban, suburban, and rural youth working together.

(2) ensure that economically and educationally disadvantaged students are offered service opportunities;

(3) describe the goals of the program, including goals that are quantifiable, measurable, and show benefits to the participants and the community;

(4) formulate programs that —

(a) provide an age-appropriate learning component for participants to reflect on service experiences;

(b) give pre-service and in-service training for both supervisors and participants involving representatives of the community where service opportunities will be provided; and

(c) provide evidence that participants will make a sustained commitment to the service project.

(5) involve individuals of different ages, sexes, ethnic groups, and economic backgrounds serving together.

SECTION 7. *Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Appropriation.* – The national government shall appropriate such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions and objectives of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, 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: 1422 *lfd*