

In this light, this bill seeks to integrate environmental education in the Senior High School curriculum. This is in recognition of the fact that educational attainment is considered by a number of studies as the single strongest determinant of public awareness of environmental issues such as climate change.

Environmental education seeks to enhance awareness and sensitivity of students on global and local environmental issues and engages them into taking actions to sustain and advance the quality of our environment. This measure is also in line with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 2030 vision of reducing environmental risks and increasing resilience of societies and the environmental as a whole.

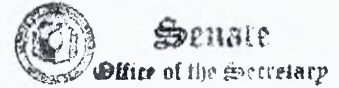
Indeed, better understanding of the environment is seen to improve participation of citizens in active environmental protection and thereby contribute to the reduction of the country's vulnerabilities to impacts of environmental degradation.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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



22 JUL 14 AIO :48

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. B. NO. 573

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

**AN ACT INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
IN THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (SHS) CURRICULUM**

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

1 **SEC. 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Environmental Education*
2 *in Senior High School Act.*”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The Constitution provides that the State shall
5 protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in
6 accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Pursuant to this, the State shall
7 formulate and institutionalize environmental policies that protect the environment
8 against degradation and deterioration, and shall ensure that such policies are widely
9 disseminated to all its citizens.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Integration of Environmental Education in Senior High School**
12 **(SHS) Curriculum.** – All public and private senior high schools (SHS) are mandated
13 to integrate Environmental Education in the core SHS subjects (i) Disaster Readiness
14 and Risk Reduction and (ii) Earth Science for those under the Science, Technology,
15 Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Strand, or (i) Earth and Life Science and (ii)
16 Physical Science for those under the other SHS tracks; *Provided*, That in the event
17 that there shall be an amendment to the K-12 curriculum and the list of core subjects
18 taken up by SHS students, the Department of Education (DepEd) shall ensure that
19 Environmental Education is integrated in another core subject.
20

21 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** – Environmental Education shall increase students’
22 understanding, awareness, and sensitivity to the environment and environmental
23 challenges, and improve the attitudes and motivation towards maintaining
24 environmental quality. It shall include, but not be limited, to the teaching of the
25 following:
26

- 1 (i) how natural environments function and how human activities increase
2 hazards to disasters, environmental degradation, and resource depletion,
3 among others;
- 4
- 5 (ii) relevant national and local environmental laws;
- 6
- 7 (iii) pressing global and local environmental issues; and
8
- 9 (iv) measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change.

10
11 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Guidelines.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
12 the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with the Department of
13 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the National Disaster Risk Reduction
14 and Management Council (NDRRMC) and other appropriate government agencies
15 and relevant stakeholders, shall formulate the rules and regulations to effectively
16 implement the provisions of this Act.
17

18 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – Any portion or provision of this Act that may be
19 declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions
20 and provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still subsist
21 and be given effect in their entirety.
22

23 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders,
24 proclamations and administrative regulations, or any parts thereof inconsistent with
25 the provisions of this Act are hereby revoked, repealed or modified accordingly.
26

27 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
28 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
29 circulation.
30

31 **Approved,**