


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION )

7 JUL -4 P.M.

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 1097

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill provides the inclusion of a new subject "Environment and Development" in the secondary curricula to promote environmental awareness among Filipino youth.

The Constitution recognizes the role of the youth in nation building and the importance of inculcating patriotism and nationalism, and encourages their involvement in public and civic affairs. The youth are the future leaders and prime movers of the nation in the near future and their education is crucial to promote their intellectual and social wellbeing to better equip them to meet the challenges towards sustainable development.

Environmental degradation has been one of the most pressing concerns that the country faces. Economic growth over the years have exacted considerable costs to our natural resources and posed great challenges in the efforts to restore a balanced and healthful ecology. Thus, the need to develop a stronger national consciousness for the conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources remains paramount. Developing the consciousness of the youth on the importance of conserving the environment will help ensure that the present initiatives towards restoring a balanced ecology will be continued in succeeding generations.

This bill addresses the need to educate the youth on the vital role of environmental conservation in attaining social development.


In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator

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

7 JUL -4 P 5 191

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. NO. 1097

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY INCLUSION OF THE STUDY OF  
ENVIRONMENT AS AN ADDITIONAL SUBJECT IN THE SECONDARY  
EDUCATION CURRICULUM**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It shall be a policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. In recognition of the vital role of youth in nation building and the role of education to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development, the State shall promote national awareness on the role of natural resources in economic growth and the importance of environmental conservation and ecological balance towards sustained national development among the Filipino youth.

**SECTION 2. Objective.** - Pursuant to the foregoing policy, the secondary curricula of public and private educational institutions shall be reformed to include a subject "Environment and Development" in all high school levels. The subject shall instruct the students on the state of the Philippine and global environment, the threats of environmental degradation and its impact on human wellbeing, and the value of natural resources conservation in the context of sustainable development. The subject shall also instill greater appreciation and concern for the conservation of the natural environment

**SECTION 3. Curriculum Review Board.** - The Curriculum Review Board is hereby created, an ad hoc body which shall be responsible for developing the content and instructional design of the subject "Environment and Development" in accordance with the learning objectives set forth in Section 2 of this Act. It shall perform the functions specified under this Section in no more than two (2) years after its creation.

- a) Powers and Functions:
  - i) To conduct research and identify the topics to be covered by the subject;
  - ii) To organize the instructional design such that the topics will be divided in four levels, Environment and Development I - IV, which shall correspond to students from first to fourth year high school;
  - iii) To set the minimum requirements and guidelines for teachers who shall be allowed to lecture on the subject;

- iv) To develop an educators' training program to prepare instructors for the said subject;
- v) To formulate the guidelines for integrating the new subject in the secondary curricula;
- vi) To formulate policy guidelines that will govern the operations of the Curriculum Review Board in line with the performance of the functions provided herein.

b) Composition:

- i) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) as Chair;
- ii) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as Vice-Chair;
- iii) Assistant Secretary for Plans and Programs of DepEd;
- iv) Three Representatives from Private Schools;
- v) Three Representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) involved in environment advocacies.

**SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The DepEd, in coordination with the DENR shall formulate within six (6) months from the enactment of this law the Implementing Rules and Regulations necessary to effectively carry out the objectives and provisions of this Act. The DepEd shall be responsible for issuing monitoring guidelines for the periodic review, assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the new curricula.

**SECTION 5. *Appropriation.*** - The Curriculum Review Board, thru the DepEd, shall annually submit a budget proposal to Congress for its inclusion in the General Appropriations Act to fund the implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** - if any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 7. *Repealing clause.*** - All provisions of laws, decrees, orders, including rules, and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** - This act shall take effect beginning the school year immediately following its approval.

Approved,