

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

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10 JUL 21 AM 10:05

SENATE
S. No. 1721

RECEIVED BY [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, provides:

Section 13. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Section 17. The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Quality education is necessary not only for the future of our children and our families, but for the future of our country. A better educated citizenry and workforce are essential to compete in the global economy and to maintain a strong democracy.

A safe school environment is a prerequisite towards achieving that goal. If the government is to effectively provide quality education, it must provide students an environment conducive to learning.

The continued presence in schools of violent students, who are a threat to both teachers and other students, is incompatible with a safe learning environment. Unsafe school environments discourage students to go to school and place those who are already at risk of school failure for other reasons in further jeopardy.

Greater cooperation between schools, parents, law enforcement, the courts, and the community is essential to making our schools safe from drugs and violence. The purpose of this bill is to establish innovative programs to provide safe school environments.*

[Signature]
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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

SECRET
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 21 AM 105

SENATE
S. No. 1721

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 ESTABLISHING INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE SAFE SCHOOL
3 ENVIRONMENTS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Safe Schools Act.”

5 SECTION 2. *Purpose.* – It is the purpose of this Act to urge the Department of
6 Education, Culture and Sports and other educational agencies –

7 (A) To provide comprehensive services to victims and witnesses of school violence;

8 (B) To remove violent and drug selling student offenders from school premises;

9 (C) To report violent crimes and drug dealing on school grounds to appropriate law
10 enforcement authorities;

11 (D) To involve parents, former armed forces personnel, and community volunteers in
12 efforts to improve school safety; and

13 (E) To develop innovative programs to improve the safety of our Nation’s schools and
14 to better serve at-risk students.

15 SECTION 3. *Authorization of Appropriations.* – There are authorized to be appropriated
16 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

17 SECTION 4. *Program Authorized.* –

18 (A) *In General.* – The Secretary of Education shall develop, establish, or conduct as may
19 be necessary to carry out this Act.

1 (B) *NATURE.* – The Secretary shall, for school implementation, focus on programs
2 that—

3 (1) Provide parent and teacher notification of crimes or drug activity occurring at
4 school;

5 (2) Provide for the suspension, delay, or restriction of driving privileges of
6 students who have a conviction, an adjudication in a juvenile proceeding, or a
7 finding in a school disciplinary proceeding, involving illegal drugs;

8 (3) Link educational institutions with community-based mentoring programs in
9 order to link individual at-risk youth with responsible, individual adults who
10 serve as mentors for the purpose of –

11 (a) Discouraging at-risk youth from using illegal drugs and dangerous
12 weapons, and from violence, criminal activity, and involvement in
13 gangs;

14 (b) Increasing youth participation in, and enhancing the ability of such
15 youth to benefit from, elementary and secondary education;

16 (c) Promoting personal and social responsibility;

17 (d) Encouraging at-risk youth participation in community service and
18 community activities; and

19 (e) Providing general guidance to at-risk youth;

20 (4) Include cooperative efforts between the Secretary of Education and the
21 Secretary of National Defense to share the training and salary costs of former
22 members of the Armed Forces, who shall be hired as teachers and assigned to
23 teach in public elementary schools and secondary schools;

24 (5) Enhance school security measures that may include –

25 (a) Equipping schools with metal detectors, fences, closed circuit cameras,
26 and other physical security measures;

27 (b) Providing increased police patrols in and around elementary schools
28 and secondary schools;

1 (c) Mailing to parents at the beginning of the school year stating that the
2 possession of a gun or other weapon, or the sale of drugs in schools,
3 will not be tolerated by school authorities; and

4 (d) Gun hotlines.

5 (6) Provide protections for victims and witnesses to school crime, including
6 protection for attendance at school disciplinary proceedings;

7 (7) Expel students who, on school grounds, sell drugs, or who commit a violent
8 offense that causes serious bodily injury of another student or teacher; and

9 (8) Require referral to law enforcement authorities or juvenile authorities of any
10 student who on school grounds—

11 (a) Commits a violent offense resulting in serious bodily injury; or

12 (b) Sells drugs.

13 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
14 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
15 valid and subsisting.

16 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
17 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent
18 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

19 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,