

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

9 APR 21 11:35

SENATE

S. No. 3173

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 13 and Article XIV, Section 3 (2) of the 1987 Constitution both provide for the protection and development of the youth. However, it has been evident that there has been nationwide rise of drop-outs and the slump of children's school participation and cohort survival. In fact, according to the government education agency, drop-out rates for both elementary and secondary levels, went up by above 7% and nearly 13% in school year 2005-2006, from 6.98% and 7.99%, respectively, in school year 2004-2005.<sup>1</sup>

It could not be concealed that the frequent habit of cutting classes or the act of skipping classes due to peer pressure or the act of juvenile rebellion has often resulted to the formation of illiterate drop-outs who resort to deviant behaviors such as stealing, gang wars, drug addiction, teenage pregnancy, vandalism, and other crimes against persons, property and even the state.

The development of our young people is in jeopardy because of various influences and activities that destroy their lives and future, causing them to become illiterate and irresponsible drop-outs who resort to deviant behaviors and rebellion against established institutions and authorities.

Given this situation, a legislation that will ensure the promotion of general welfare of the youth and their protection from acts, conditions, or influences that are prejudicial to their development is therefore deemed necessary.

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

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.philippinestoday.net/index.php?module=article&view=994>

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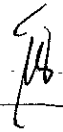
SENATE  
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9 APR 21 15:35

SENATE

S. No. 3173

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

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**AN ACT**  
**ENSURING THE WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF MINORS AND FOR OTHER**  
**PURPOSES**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Youth Welfare and Protection*  
2 *Act.*”

3  
4           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt  
5 and impose policies and regulations that would ensure the welfare and protection of minors, both  
6 in-school and out-of-school youth. Their development shall be given consideration in all of its  
7 government programs.

8  
9           **SEC. 3. Coverage.** – All minors below eighteen (18) years old, both in-school and out-of-  
10 school, as well as all establishments that cater to such, shall be covered by this Act.

11  
12           **SEC. 4. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the followings terms shall  
13 mean:

- 14           a) Child/Juvenile/Minor – any person below eighteen (18) years old;
- 15           b) Department – Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- 16           c) Community Service – a penalty imposed upon a minor for violation of this Act, as  
17 defined and within the parameter of the Diversion Program as provided for in

1 Republic Act 9344 otherwise known as “An Act Establishing a Comprehensive  
2 Juvenile Justice and Welfare System”.

3 d) Fraternity – a group of people associated or formally organized for a common  
4 purpose, interest, or pleasure;

5 e) Gambling –

6 1) playing games of chance or betting in the hope of winning money;

7 2) wagering money or something of material value on an event with an uncertain  
8 outcome with the primary intent of winning additional money and/or material  
9 goods.

10 f) Gang – a group of persons acting in accord who are believed to engage in improper  
11 acts or to be influenced by self-seeking, corrupt, or unworthy motives;

12 g) Hazing – an initiation rite being conducted as a prerequisite for admission as member  
13 in a fraternity, sorority, or organization by placing the recruit, neophyte, or applicant  
14 in an embarrassing or humiliating situation such as forcing him/her to do menial, silly  
15 foolish, and other similar tasks or activities, or otherwise subjecting him/her to  
16 physical suffering or injury;

17 h) Liquor - an alcoholic drink, especially of the type produced by distillation;

18 i) Recruiter – a person who enlists or causes other persons to join or become a member  
19 of a fraternity, sorority, or gang;

20 j) Republic Act No. 8049 - An Act regulating hazing and other forms of initiation rites  
21 in fraternities, sororities, and other organizations.

22  
23 **SEC. 5. Loitering During School Hours.** – Students or schoolchildren are banned from  
24 loitering in public places outside their school grounds/campuses during school hours unless they  
25 are accompanied by their parents/guardians or are attending an official school function/duty. To  
26 curtail this practice, students and/or school children who will be caught loitering in public places  
27 outside their school grounds/campuses during school/class hours, without being accompanied by

1 their parents/guardians or attending an official school function/duty, shall be sanctioned  
2 accordingly.

3

4 **SECTION 6. *Restricted Areas for Minors.*** – The following areas shall be restricted for  
5 minors:

6 a) **Videoke Bars/Beer Houses** – It shall be unlawful for establishments such as, but not  
7 limited to videoke bars, beer houses, night clubs, and/or any establishment that offer  
8 similar services, to allow the entry of minors within their premises at any time and  
9 any day, whether or not they are in the company of their parents, guardians, elders,  
10 or relatives who are not otherwise covered by these prohibition;

11 b) **Hotels/Motels/Lodging Houses** – It shall be unlawful for all hotels, motels, lodging  
12 houses, and/or similar establishments to allow the entry of minors within their  
13 premises, unless otherwise such minors are with the company of their parents,  
14 guardians, or adult relatives.

15

16 **SECTION 7. *Fraternities and Gangs.*** –

17 a) All newly formed youth organizations shall apply for accreditation from the office of  
18 the mayor of the city or municipality where it seeks to be organized, upon the  
19 recommendation of the youth and sports council of said city or municipality, and,  
20 accordingly, be issued a Certificate of Accreditation. The youth and sports council of  
21 each city or municipality is hereby tasked to guide, monitor, and supervise these  
22 organizations.

23 b) No person shall force, coerce, bully, or deceive any juvenile into joining any  
24 organization, fraternity, sorority, gang, or association. Recruiters from any  
25 organization or fraternity/sorority must secure permission from the parents/guardians  
26 of the child/juvenile being recruited.

27 c) Hazing or initiation rites are discouraged, if not regulated, conforming with Republic  
28 Act 8049.

1 d) If the juvenile/minor subjected to hazing or other forms of initiation rites suffers any  
2 physical injury or dies as a result thereof, the officers and members of the fraternity,  
3 sorority, or organization who actually participated in the infliction of physical harm  
4 shall be liable as principals and will suffer the sanctions as provided under Republic  
5 Act 8049.

6  
7 **SECTION 8. *Other Acts Prejudicial to the Child's Development.* –**

8 a) **Selling of Specific Products** – It shall be unlawful for any person or establishments  
9 such as, but not limited to groceries, department stores, eateries, restaurants, bakeries,  
10 market stalls, bazaars, general merchandise, hardware and construction supplies to  
11 sell liquor and/or any intoxicating drink, tobacco products, illegal drugs, “rugby” and  
12 other habit-inducing solvents, or pornographic materials to minors, such as videos,  
13 magazines or any publication, books or tapes, and other materials that are detrimental  
14 to the development of the child.

15 b) **Smoking Ban for Minors** – It shall be unlawful for any minor within the meaning of  
16 this Act to smoke cigarettes, cigars, and other tobacco products in any form  
17 whatsoever, whether or not they are in the company of their parents, guardians,  
18 elders, or relatives who are not otherwise covered by this prohibition.

19 c) **Ban on Rugby and other Habit-Inducing Solvents** – It shall be unlawful for any minor  
20 within the meaning of this Act to sniff “Rugby” or any habit-inducing solvent.

21 d) **Ban on Liquor and/or any Intoxicating Drink** – It shall be unlawful for all minors  
22 within the meaning of this Act to drink liquor and/or any intoxicating drink, whether  
23 or not they are in the company of their parents, guardians, elders, or relatives who are  
24 not otherwise covered by this prohibition.

25 e) **Gambling Ban for Minors** – Minors are banned from engaging in any form of  
26 gambling. Minors who are caught from engaging in any form of gambling, such as,  
27 but not limited to jueteng, lotto, all card games, cara y cruz, mahjong, bingo, and  
28 ending shall be properly sanctioned

1           **SEC. 9. Penalties for Specific Violations. –**

2           a) The parents/guardians of the offender shall be sanctioned to attend a Parents'  
3           Orientation Seminar for the First Offense, and a fine in the amount of Five Thousand  
4           Pesos (P 5,000.00) or four (4) hours of community service to the government of the  
5           city or municipality where said parents or guardians are residents, for subsequent  
6           offenses.

7           b) The Principal, Guidance Counselor, or Class Adviser of students who were  
8           apprehended while roaming in all parks, amusement centers, and other similar places  
9           during their prescribed school hours shall be notified by the apprehending officers  
10          concerning the matter, and the above school authorities shall bring the offenders to  
11          school for counseling and/or appropriate disciplinary action.

12          c) Commercial establishments such as, but not limited to malls, video arcades,  
13          restaurants, fast food chains, carinderias, videoke bars, billiard pool halls, and other  
14          forms of recreation, amusement centers, movie houses, parlors or barber shops, and  
15          groceries or supermarkets that allow school children to loiter in their premises during  
16          school days from 7:00 o'clock in the morning to 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon shall  
17          be subjected to a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) for every student caught.

18          d) Violators whose business involve recreational/sports/amusement related activities  
19          shall suffer the same fine, plus the confiscation of all their gadgets, equipment,  
20          machines, and other paraphernalia such as computers, videos, billiard pools, bowling  
21          balls, machines, karaoke/videoke, television sets, and the like.

22          e) The penalty for violation of the provisions of Sections 6 and 8 (a) shall be as follows:  
23                  1) First Offense - Fine of Thirty Thousand Pesos (P 30,000.00) plus three (3)  
24                  months suspension of Business Permit;  
25                  2) Second Offense - Fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P 50,000.00) and cancellation  
26                  of Business Permit without prejudice to the filing of appropriate legal action.

27          f) Any minor who is found violating the provisions of Sections 8 (b), (c), (d) and (e) of  
28          this Act shall be subjected to community service to the government of the city or

1 municipality where the offense was committed and counseling from the Department  
2 as prescribed in Section 10 of this Act. In addition, any minor who is found violating  
3 Section 8 (d) shall be placed under preventive custody until sober in holding centers  
4 in the city or municipality where apprehended while drinking or otherwise found in  
5 an intoxicated state, so as not to inflict harm on himself/herself and others

- 6 g) Any person caught in the act of forcing or deceiving any minor/juvenile, or those who  
7 have forced and deceived minors into joining any organization, fraternity/sorority, or  
8 gang within the campus or outside the school grounds shall be sanctioned with two  
9 (2) hours of counseling at the Department and four (4) hours of community service to  
10 the government of the city or municipality where the school is established and located  
11 or where the offense was committed if the offender is a minor, or a fine of Five  
12 Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) and eight (8) hours of community service if the offender  
13 is an adult, without prejudice to filing of appropriate legal action.

14  
15 **SEC. 10. General Penal Clause. –**

16 Violations of the provisions of this Act shall have the following penalties:

- 17 a) First Offense - Fine in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P 5,000.00) or four (4)  
18 hours of community service and two (2) hours of counseling;  
19 b) Repeated Offense - Fine in the amount of Eight Thousand Pesos (P 8,000.00) or eight  
20 (8) hours of community service and four (4) hours of counseling.

21  
22 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause. –** If any provision of this Act shall at any time be found to  
23 be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such declaration shall  
24 remain in full force and effect.

25  
26 **SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. –** All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent with  
27 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1           **SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect       fifteen (15) days following  
2   its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,