

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *Sule*

S. No. 560

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 6. Article II of the Constitution provides that “the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”

The duty imposed on the State is corollary to the people’s right to protection against the degradation of the country’s natural resources, and against any impairment of the ecological balance needed to maintain a healthful and sustainable environment for human existence and progress. The State’s duty is, however, a shared responsibility between government in the people. Consequently, all of us are responsible for the environmental degradation and destruction of the earth.

The solution to this problem must, therefore, start with us through education. We ought to be informed of the delicate balance education of nature that must be maintained, of the unthinking practices and habits that we should discontinue because of their disastrous consequences and of the remedial self-help measures that we must adopt in order to repair the damage we had inflicted on mother nature of which we are a steward and a part.

This bill, therefore seeks to educate and reform society by integrating in the curriculum of all educational institutions in the two (2) levels of instruction – Elementary and Secondary – a course on “The Philippine Society and the Environment” either as a separate subject or as a part of another relevant subject.

For these reasons, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT TO INTEGRATE IN THE CURRICULA OF ALL EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING NON-FORMAL, INDIGENOUS LEARNING AND OUT-
OF SCHOOL PROGRAMS, A COURSE ON PHILIPPINE SOCIETY AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

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

Section 1. The teaching of the appreciation, conservation, rehabilitation and promotion of the environment shall be included in the curricula of all public and private elementary and secondary schools, including non-formal, indigenous learning and out-of-school program.

Section 2. The environment shall refer to the bio-physical world of human beings, the maritime, fluvial, and aerial domains, the mineral, coal, petroleum oils, all forces of potential energy, fisheries, flora and fauna and all other natural resources.

Section 3. There is hereby created a course with a proposed title "The Philippine Society and the Environment" which shall be added to the elementary and secondary school curriculum. In addition to the teaching of the appreciation, conservation, rehabilitation and promotion of environment, the course shall likewise include the teaching of environmental laws in the Philippines.

Section 4. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations and call upon the assistance of other government agencies, offices, entities and instrumentalities for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Act.

Section 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication on the official gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,