

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'13 OCT -3 P5:25

SENATE  
S. No. 1787

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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#### 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.\*

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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

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SENATE  
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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 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  
19 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 (c) Promoting personal and social responsibility;

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (c) Mailing to parents at the beginning of the school year stating that  
2 the possession of a gun or other weapon, or the sale of drugs in  
3 schools, 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  
8 violent offense that causes serious bodily injury of another student or  
9 teacher; and

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

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

13 (b) Sells drugs.

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

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

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

Approved,