

---

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

---

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 13 provides that:

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

Service to the community is a responsibility of all Filipinos, regardless of their economic level or age. Serving other builds self-esteem and teaches teamwork, decision-making, and problem-solving.

Students, from kindergarten to college, offer a powerful and largely untapped resource for community service. The government, therefore, should encourage students to engage in productive work with visible community benefits in a natural resource or human service setting, in order to give them a mix of work experience, basic and life skills education, training, and support services.

Children who become engaged in community service early will understand better the responsibilities of citizenship and often continue to serve the community into adulthood. To this end, this bill seeks to establish a program that will expand opportunities for students to serve their communities. \*

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

---

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

2015  
Member of the Secretary  
15 OCT 20 03:23

SENATE  
S. No. 1878

SENATE SECRETARY  
jrc

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT  
2 ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
3 FILIPINO STUDENTS TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

*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 “Service to the Philippines  
5 Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Purpose.* – The purposes of this Act are:

7 (A) To enable the call to service to begin in elementary school, to grow into sustained  
8 community action in secondary schools and colleges, and to become a lifelong habit;

9 (B) To provide students with service opportunities; and

10 (C) To build on the existing organizational framework for community service  
11 provided by educational agencies, schools, institutions of higher education, and nongovernment  
12 organizations.

13 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

14 (A) “Community-based agency” means a private non-profit organization that is  
15 representative of a community or a significant segment of a community and that is engaged in  
16 meeting human, social, educational, or environmental community needs.

17 (B) “Education institution” means elementary or secondary school, institution of  
18 higher education, or a community-based agency that provides educational services.

19 (C) “Appropriate government agency” means a government agency that is engaged in  
20 meeting human, social, educational, or environmental needs.

1 (D) "Participant" means a student or out-of-school youth who provides services  
2 pursuant to a program provided in this Act.

3 (E) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

4 (F) "Service opportunity" means a program or project enabling students to perform  
5 meaningful and constructive service in agencies, institutions, and situations where the  
6 application of human talent and dedication may help to meet, human, social, educational, and  
7 environmental community needs, especially those relating to poverty.

8 (G) "Student" means an individual who is enrolled full-time or part-time in an  
9 elementary or secondary school or institution of higher education.

10 SECTION 4. *School- and Campus-Based Community Service.* – The Secretary shall, in  
11 coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, the National Youth Commission, the  
12 Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other appropriate government agencies and  
13 community-based agencies, establish a national program that shall provide service opportunities  
14 for students and out-of-school youth. Such comprehensive program shall provide productive  
15 work with visible community benefits in a natural resource or human service setting and give  
16 participants a mix of work experience, basic and life skills education, training, and support  
17 services.

18 SECTION 5. *Incorporation in the Curriculum.* – Such program shall be incorporated into  
19 the curriculum as a separate subject and shall require students, before they are allowed to  
20 graduate from elementary, high school, or college, as the case may be, to render community  
21 service by participating in the program.

22 SECTION 6. *Program Components.* – The Secretary, in carrying out the program, shall

23 (A) Encourage cooperative efforts among education institutions, local government  
24 agencies, community-based agencies, business to provide service opportunities, including those  
25 that involve the participation of urban, suburban, and rural youth working together;

1 (B) Ensure that economically and educationally disadvantaged students are offered  
2 service opportunities;

3 (C) Describe the goals of the program, including goals that are quantifiable,  
4 measurable, and show benefits to the participants and the community;

5 (D) Formulate programs that -

6 (1) provide an age-appropriate learning component for participants to reflect  
7 on service experiences;

8 (2) give pre-service and in-service training for both supervisors and  
9 participants involving representatives of the community where service  
10 opportunities will be provided; and

11 (3) provide evidence that participants will make a sustained commitment to  
12 the service project.

13 (E) Involve individuals of different ages, sexes, ethnic groups, and economic  
14 backgrounds serving together.

15 SECTION 7. *Rules and Regulations.* -- The Secretary shall promulgate the necessary  
16 rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from the  
17 approval of this Act.

18 SECTION 8. *Appropriation.* -- Such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the  
19 provisions and objectives of this Act are hereby appropriated from the National Treasury.

20 SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* -- If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or  
21 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
22 valid and subsisting.

23 SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* -- Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
24 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
25 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

1           SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* -- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,