

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



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SENATE
S. NO. **2339**

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING AN AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM TO PREVENT
THE ABDUCTION, EXPLOITATION, AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Child sexual abuse is estimated to affect up to one in four girls and up to one in six boys. It poses a grave threat to the health and safety of young people, and its damaging effects can last a lifetime. From 2010 to 2013, the Department of Social Work and Development has served a total of 150 cases of child pornography and cyber pornography. These children were provided with protective custody, psychosocial, legal, financial, educational, and spiritual services. Moreover, the *Terres de Hommes* Netherlands recently conducted an exploratory study on the background and psychosocial consequences of web cam tourism in the Philippines and it revealed that the country's online child sex tourism trade is flourishing.

The legislature also finds and declares that child sexual exploitation, including the use of children in pornography and prostitution, and child abduction pose a similar threat to the health and safety of young people, and put child victims at grave risk of death or severe bodily harm. Moreover, the incidence of child sexual abuse, child sexual exploitation and child abduction can be reduced by raising awareness among young children of common dangers and warning signs, empowering children to better protect themselves from sexual predators, and teaching children how to obtain any necessary

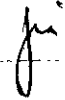
assistance or services. It is declared to be the public policy and in the public interest of the State to establish a comprehensive program to provide an age-appropriate course of instruction in the prevention of child abduction, child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse. Thus, urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.¹

our 
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill is patterned after Senate Bill No. A00661A of the New York State Assembly.

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SENATE
S. NO. 2339

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

1 AN ACT

2 INSTITUTIONALIZING AN AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM TO PREVENT
3 THE ABDUCTION, EXPLOITATION, AND SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN AND
4 APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
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7 SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the
8 State to equip Filipino children with the proper knowledge and instruction in order to
9 prevent the abduction, exploitation, or sexual abuse of children and other conditions
10 which are prejudicial to their development.

11 SECTION 2. Coverage - All pupils in grades Kindergarten through Eight [K-8] in
12 all public schools shall receive instruction designed to prevent the abduction,
13 exploitation, or sexual abuse of children. Such instruction shall be provided by or under
14 the direct supervision of regular classroom teachers in public schools and may be adopted
15 by private schools.

16 SECTION 3. Age-appropriate curriculum in the prevention of child abduction,
17 child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse. - The Department of Education (DepEd)
18 shall provide technical assistance to assist in the development of curricula for such
19 courses of study which shall be age appropriate and developed according to the needs and
20 abilities of pupils at successive grade levels in order to provide awareness skills,

1 information, self-confidence and support to aid in the prevention of child abduction, child
2 sexual exploitation, and child sexual abuse.

3 For purposes of developing such courses of study, the DepEd shall conduct
4 consultations with parents-teachers-community associations, school officials, and other
5 public interest to make recommendations concerning the content and implementation of
6 such courses. Such advisory councils shall consist of, but not be limited to, parents,
7 school trustees and board members, appropriate school personnel, business and
8 community representatives, and law enforcement personnel having experience in the
9 prevention of child abduction, child sexual exploitation, and child sexual abuse.

10 The board of education or trustees of every school division shall provide
11 appropriate training and curriculum materials for the regular teachers who provide such
12 instruction.

13 SECTION 4. *Appropriation.* - The DepEd shall immediately include in the
14 program of the Department the operationalization of this program, the initial funding of
15 which shall be charged against the current appropriations for kindergarten education of
16 the DepEd. Thereafter, such sums which shall be necessary for the continued
17 implementation of this education program shall be charged to the General Fund and
18 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid
20 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
21 remain valid and subsisting.

22 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
23 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to
24 or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
25 accordingly.

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

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4 Approved,

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