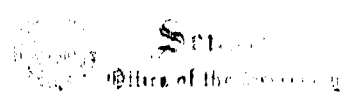


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



16 AUG -1 P 1:59

SENATE
S.B. No. 964

BY:

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

**AN ACT INTEGRATING VOTER EDUCATION
IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

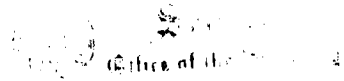
The Philippine Constitution, in Section 3(2), Article XIV, provides that "all educational institutions shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technical knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency."

There is a need to institute political and electoral reforms to ensure the broadest, significant and effective participation of Filipino citizens in the electoral and political processes. One of these key reforms is to integrate voter education in the curricula of junior and senior high school levels to develop politically mature youth who are conversant with the electoral and political processes and to ultimately prepare them to actively and maturely participate in nation building.

This bill aims to empower the youth by integrating voter education in the junior and senior high school curricula to deepen their understanding in the electoral and political processes and lay the foundation for stabilizing Philippine democracy.

The approval of this bill is, hence, earnestly sought.

FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN
Senator



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SENATE

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Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

**AN ACT INTEGRATING VOTER EDUCATION
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Compulsory Voter*
2 *Education Act of 2016.*”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to enlighten citizens on
4 their right to vote and to inculcate in them the duty to preserve the integrity of the
5 electoral process through the educational system.

6 **SEC. 3. Definition of Voter Education.** – As used in this Act, “*Voter education*”
7 means dissemination of information, materials and programs designed to inform citizens
8 about the specifics and mechanics of the voting process. It includes providing
9 information on the right to suffrage, its importance, and the proper exercise thereof, as
10 well as information on who is eligible to vote; where and how to register; how electors
11 can check the voter lists to ensure they have been duly included; what type of elections
12 are being held; where, when and how to vote; who the candidates are; and how to file
13 complaints.

14 **SEC. 4. Integration of Voter Education in the Junior and Senior High School**
15 **Curricula.** - Voter Education shall be integrated by the Department of Education
16 (DepEd) in the junior and senior high school curricula, effective at the start of the school
17 year immediately following one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. The Commission
18 on Elections (COMELEC) shall assist DepEd in preparing teachers during the one-year
19 transition period by conducting seminars and trainings on the electoral system and

1 process. COMELEC shall certify that the teacher, after attending such seminars and
2 trainings, is qualified to teach topics relating to the electoral system and process.

3 **SEC. 5. Voter Education Syllabus. –**

4 A. Voter education. – The main syllabus shall include, but not limited to, the
5 following thematic areas:

6 1. Suffrage. – This area introduces to students the right to vote accorded
7 by the Constitution, and other rights enabling citizens to participate in
8 the conduct of public affairs;

9 2. Electoral system and process. – This area deals with the general
10 principles underlying the present electoral system, and legislation
11 regulating all the phases of election namely, pre-election, election
12 proper, and post-election. It discusses the proper conduct of elections
13 including registration, casting of ballots, and counting of votes;

14 3. Educated voting. – This area focuses on the attitude and behavior a
15 voter must adopt to ensure fair, free, and honest elections. It
16 emphasizes the importance of participating in elections in a manner
17 that shall stimulate and strengthen democracy.

18 B. Supplementary topics. – This curriculum should have additional topics and
19 studies on the political system of the country, the contextual background of
20 elections, current political, social, and economic issues affecting the elections,
21 and the possible solutions to address them.

22 C. Other subject matters. – Other areas of voter education may be included in
23 the syllabus.

24 **SEC. 6. Implementing Agency. -** The Secretary of Education is hereby authorized
25 and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act.
26 The Secretary of Education shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act,
27 promulgate the rules and regulations, including those of a disciplinary nature, to carry
28 out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

29 **SEC. 7. Educational Materials. –** It shall be obligatory on all schools offering
30 secondary education to keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the

1 textbooks, primers, and leaflets on voter education to be issued by the DepEd. The
2 DepEd shall determine the adequacy of the number of books, depending upon the
3 enrollment of the school.

4 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
5 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
6 remain valid and subsisting.

7 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
8 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or
9 inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
10 accordingly.

11 **SEC.10. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after
12 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
13 circulation.

Approved,