

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 AUG 25 AM 11:18

SENATE
S. B. NO. 1080

RECEIVED BY: *J*

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS MANDATORY IN
ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Global trend suggests that the people regardless of nationality or ethnic origin should be aware of the basic human rights of each individual ranging from the right to life, liberty, food, shelter, education, and among others. In fact, international treaties, covenants, agreements, laws were crafted, passed and signed by different States just to make sure that the basic precepts of these international laws and agreement will be observed and enforced by the concurring States.

In the Philippines, albeit the fact that our government has been a signatory to a number of these covenants and treaties, we still have problems in terms of observance and enforcement as human rights abuses still rampant throughout the country. Many of our countrymen are passive to report human rights abuses because of fear, ignorance and lack of support from the government.

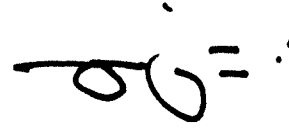
No less than the 1987 Philippine Constitution under Article XIII, Section 18 (5) and (6), succinctly provides, that:

"(5) *Establish a continuing program of research, education, and information to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights.* "

"(6) *Recommend to Congress effective measures to promote human rights*

and to provide for compensation to victims of violations of human rights, or their families. "

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ejercito', with a horizontal line extending to the left and a small mark to the right.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

Senator

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

- 1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - All public and private schools shall include
2 human rights courses in their curricula. No school shall be established or allowed to
3 operate unless this requirement is complied with.
4
- 5 SEC 2, The Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on
6 Human Rights, shall formulate courses on human rights to be taught as separate
7 courses or incorporated in existing subjects now being taught in all levels of
8 education throughout the country.
9
- 10 SEC 3. The Department of Education, shall also consult and coordinate with the
11 Commission on Human Rights in the writing, printing and publication of textbooks,
12 manuals and other reading materials to be used in the human rights courses.
13
- 14 SEC 4. This Act shall be implemented initially within the framework of the budget of
15 the Department of Education, for the year it is enacted into law. As far as practicable,
16 the funds required therefore shall be drawn from its appropriations for policy
17 formulation, program planning, standards development and instructional materials
18 development.
19
- 20 Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act
21 shall be included in the budget of the Department of Education, in the annual
22 General Appropriations Act.
23
- 24 SEC 5. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on
25 Human Rights, shall, within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, prepare
26 the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this
27 Act.
28

29 SEC 6. This Act shall take *effect* after fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least
30 two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,