

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 766

Introduced by: **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite the passage of several critical environmental laws like the Solid Waste Management Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, and the Clean Water Act, there seems to be a lack of awareness among the Filipinos especially the youth regarding the state of our environment and the much needed protection thereof as embodied in these laws.

This Bill seeks to conform to the international celebration of the 5th day of June of every year as World Environment Day. The bill seeks to create awareness on the status of our environment and the measures to protect it through waste segregation, recycling, forest conservation and management, clean emissions, clean water discharge, and marine and biodiversity conservation. This Bill likewise seeks to include environmental education as part of the curriculum in the Elementary and High School as well as part of National Service Training Program for college and vocational courses.

For the protection of Mother Nature, approval of this Bill is urgently sought.


COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator

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S. B. No. 766

Introduced by: **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

**AN ACT
TO PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS BY DECLARING JUNE 5 OF
EVERY YEAR AS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AND PRESCRIBING
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TO ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

Section 1. – Title. – This Act shall be known as **The Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2007.**

Section 2. – Definition of Terms. –

- a. **“Elementary”** shall mean Primary Education as defined in the Education Act of 1982.
- b. **“Environmental Education Curriculum”** shall mean the courses or subjects offered in Elementary and High School primarily dealing with the students’ awareness of the protection and conservation of the environment.
- c. **“High School”** shall mean Secondary Education as defined in the Education Act of 1982.

Section 3. Declaration of World Environment Day. – In line with the principles and mandates set by the Philippine Constitution that “the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature” (Article II, Section 16) and to conform to international celebration, the 5th day of June of every year throughout the Philippines shall be known as the “World Environment Day.”

Section 4. Inter-Agency and Multi-Sectoral Effort. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), together with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall lead in the implementation of a comprehensive public education and awareness program on environmental protection and conservation through collaborative inter-agency and multi-sectoral effort at all levels.

Section 5. *Environmental Education in Elementary and High School.* - The DepEd shall formulate the Environmental Education Curriculum, in coordination with the DENR, to be taught in Elementary and High School.

Section 6. *Environmental Education and Activities as Part of National Service Training Program.* - The CHED and TESDA shall include environmental education and awareness programs and activities in the National Service Training Program under Republic Act No. 9163, as part of the Civic Welfare Training Service component required for all Baccalaureate degree courses and vocational courses with a curriculum of at least two years, including, but not limited to: tree planting activities; recycling and composting programs; marine conservation programs; forest management and conservation; and other such programs to aid the implementation of the different environmental protection laws.

Section. 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Section. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All other acts, laws, executive orders, presidential issuances, rules and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Section. 9. *Effectivity.* - The provisions of this Act shall take effect fifteen days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.