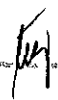


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

7 JUL 31 2013

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. B. No. 1417

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to broaden the coverage of Sangguniang Kabataan and Katipunan ng Kabataan by amending their age of composition under the present law.

Section 424 of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides that the Katipunan ng Kabataan shall be composed of Filipino citizens who have been residing in the barangay for at least six months and are fifteen (15) but not more than twenty-one (21) years of age. Republic Act No. 9164 amended the age requirement to fifteen (15) but less than 18 years of age to remove the overlap between the voting ages for the Sangguniang Kabataan and the ordinary elections. For some legislators, the term "kabataan" refer to Filipinos under the age of 18.

A study entitled "The Sangguniang Kabataan Experience" on the impact on youth participation in the local development process conducted by government agencies and international non-government organizations presented that most people believe that 18 to 21 year olds are more prepared to serve in government than their younger counterparts aged 15 to 17. The differences lie in the decision making abilities and priorities of these age groups. Most people believe that the younger age group are indecisive and are unable to make decisions independently. It is also perceived that the members of the 15 to 17 age group are unable to defend and assert themselves because they have not reached adulthood thus making it easy for adults to influence and persuade the younger age group.

Section 425 of the Local Government Code mandates that the Katipunan ng Kabataan shall meet once every three months to decide on important issues affecting the youth of the barangay. It has been a common experience among SK chairpersons, who served as respondents to the above mentioned research, of the poor attendance of the KK during these scheduled consultations. The low turn out is attributed to the fact that the youth in this younger age group have other responsibilities such as school and families. Other respondents claim that this is an indication of the younger generation's apolitical nature, uncaring over the development of the local community and the country.

There is a need to expand the age requirement of the composition of the Katipunan ng Kabataan and the Sangguniang Kabataan in order to take into consideration the conditions and situations of the Filipino youth in the context of the culture and demands of the local government and the weight of the responsibilities they have and must undertake.

This measure expands the age requirement for the members of the Katipunan ng Kabataan and officials of the Sangguniang Kabataan from the ages 15 to less than 18 to 15 years to not more than 23 years old. This allows the participation of older, more politically aware and active and more mature individuals in the community elections and activities. The involvement of a wider age group and older members of the youth will benefit the sector's activities and programs which can translate to the development of not only the youth group but the community as well.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is sought.



**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator



**SECTION 4. Repealing Clause.** - All decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause.**- This Act shall take effect seven (7) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**APPROVED,**