

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

13 '06

SENATE

S.B. No. 2507

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The practice of ritual abuse among social groups is poorly understood. This is partly due to the secretive nature of the activities, especially within collegiate fraternities and sororities, and in part a result of long-term acceptance of hazing.

It would be more difficult to make such a case in favor of hazing ceremonies in academic bodies and social clubs, where the origin is imitating discipline in substitute households and internal teaching. Hazing is an often ritualistic test, which may constitute harassment, abuse or humiliation with requirements to perform meaningless tasks; sometimes as a way of initiation into a social group. The term can refer to either mental or physical practices.

Hazing is a national problem that occurs in high schools, colleges, and other settings.

Hazing is often used as a method to promote group loyalty and camaraderie through shared suffering, either with fellow participants, past participants' or both.

Anti hazing laws and policies do exist in many individual schools. And society would be hard-pressed to find a school, college or university without a very clear anti hazing policy in place. But just because there are policies and laws it doesn't mean students know about or abide by them.

No one intends the harm that sometimes happens at hazing rituals, but the same is true for bullying – and it can have harmful consequences. Even the most benign types of hazing can easily go awry, turning ugly and sometimes dangerous.

While majority of hazing cases go unreported, there have been several incidents where neophytes of fraternities have been severely injured or even killed. But still may have been injured permanently in body and mind.

While being part of a campus group can be one of the most meaningful aspects of student life, hazing and serious problem that undermines the value of these experiences for many individuals. Although hazing is not unique we believe that it is important to examine these practices explicitly in an attempt to overcome the secrecy that perpetuates them.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.

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**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**  
Senator

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049 KNOWN AS AN ACT  
REGULATING HAZING AND OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES IN  
FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND  
PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representative of the Philippines in  
Congress Assembled:*

**Section 1.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 8049 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Hazing, as used in this Act, **IS AN OFTEN RITUALISTIC TEST**, an initiation rite, practice **OR PERSECUTION OF PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF A GROUP** as a prerequisite for admission into membership in a fraternity, sorority or organization by placing the recruit, neophyte or applicant in some embarrassing or humiliating situations such as **HARASSMENT, ABUSE**, forcing him to do mental, silly, foolish and other similar tasks or activities or otherwise subjecting him to physical or psychological suffering or injury **AND MENTAL FORMS OF HAZING**.

The term "organization" shall include club or the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Philippine Military Academy, or officer and cadet corp. of the Citizen's Military Training and Citizen's Army Training. The physical, mental and psychological fitness of prospective regular members are the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police as approved by the Secretary of the National Defense and the National Police Commission duly recommended by the chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Director General of the Philippine National Police shall not considered as hazing for the purpose of this Act.

**Section 2.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8049 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. No hazing or initiation rites in any form or manner by a fraternity, sorority or organization shall be allowed without prior notice to the school authorities or head of the organization seven days before the conduct of such initiation. The written notice shall indicate the period of the initiation activities, **THE PLACE WHERE THE INITIATION ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONDUCTED** which shall not exceed three (3) days, shall include the names of those to be subjected to such activities, **INCLUDING THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION, SORORITY AND FRATERNITY, WHO WILL PARTICIPATE THEREIN** and shall further contain an undertaking that no physical violence be employed by anybody

during such initiation rites. **NO MINOR SHALL BE SUBJECTED TO HAZING OR ANY FORM OF INITIATION RITES**

*Section 3.* The head of the school or organization or their representative must assign at least three representatives of the school or organization as the case may be, to be present during the initiation. It is the duty of such representative to see to it that no physical harm of any kind shall be inflicted upon a recruit, neophyte or applicant.

*Section 4.* Section 4 of Republic Act No. 8049 is hereby amended and read as follows:

Section 4. If the person subjected to hazing or other forms of initiation rites suffers any physical injury or dies as a result hereof, the officers and members of the fraternity, sorority or organization who actually participated in the infliction of physical harm shall be liable as principals. The person or persons who participated in the hazing shall suffer:

1. The penalty of reclusion perpetua to life imprisonment if death, rape, sodomy or mutilation, **PERMANENT INSANITY OR MENTAL ILLNESS, OR PERMANENT PHYSICAL DISABILITY OR DEFORMITY RESULTS THERE FROM AND AN INDEMNITY OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS WITH IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION IN WHICH THEY ARE ENROLLED OR FROM THE POLICE OR MILITARY SERVICE IN WHICH THEY BELONG, OR AS THE CASE MAY BE.**
2. The penalty of reclusion temporal in its maximum period if the consequence of the hazing the victim shall become imbecile, impotent or blind, **SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURIES, TEMPORARY INSANITY OR MENTAL ILLNESS AND AN INDEMNITY OF AT LEAST ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS, WITH IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION IN WHICH THEY ARE ENROLLED OR FROM THE POLICE OR MILITARY SERVICE IN WHICH THEY BELONG, OR AS THE CASE MAY BE.**
3. The penalty of reclusion temporal in its medium period if in consequence of the hazing victim shall have lost the use of speech or the power to hear or smell, or shall have lost an eye, a hand, a foot, an arm, or a leg or **SHALL HAVE LOST THE USE OF ANY SUCH MEMBER SHALL HAVE BECOME INCAPACITATED FOR THE ACTIVITY OR WORK IN WHICH HE WAS HABITUALLY ENGAGED AND AN INDEMNITY OF AT LEAST FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS WITH IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE SCHOOL OR INSTITUTION IN WHICH THEY ARE ENROLLED OR FROM THE POLICE OR MILITARY SERVICE IN WHICH THEY BELONG, OR AS THE CASE MAY BE.**
4. **THE PENALTY OF PRISON MAYOR IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD IF THE CONSEQUENCE OF THE HAZING WHEN LASCIVIOUS ACTS ARE COMMITTED OR THE PHYSICAL INJURIES INFLECTED ARE OR LESS SERIOUS SLIGHT IN NATURE, AND WHEN THE VICTIM SHALL HAVE BEEN ILL OR INCAPACITATED FOR THE PERFORMANCE ON THE ACTIVITY OR WORK IN WHICH HE WAS HABITUALLY ENGAGED FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN THIRTY DAYS.**

5. The penalty of prison mayor in its medium period if in consequence of the hazing the victim shall have been ill or incapacitated for the performance on the activity or work in which he was habitually engaged for a period of then days or more, or that injury sustained shall require medical assistance for the same period
6. **THE PENALTY OF RECLUSION PERPETUA SHALL BE IMPOSED WHEN THE VICTIM IS MINOR AT THE TIME OF THE HAZING. PROSECUTION UNDER THIS ACT DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE PROSECUTION OF THE ACCUSED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, IF APPLICABLE.**
7. The penalty of prison correctional in its maximum period if in consequence of the hazing the victim sustained physical injuries which do not prevent him from engaging habitual activity or work nor require medical attendance

The maximum penalty herein provided shall be imposed in any of the following instances:

1. when the recruitment is accompanied by force, violence, threat, intimidation or deceit on the person of the recruit who refuses to join;
2. when the recruit, neophyte or applicant initially consents to join but upon learning that hazing will be committed on his person, is prevented from quitting;
3. when the recruit, neophyte or applicant having undergone hazing is prevented from reporting the unlawful act to his parents or guardians, to the proper school authorities, or to the police authorities, through force, violence, threat or intimidation;
4. when the hazing is committed outside of the school or institution; or
5. when the victim is below twelve years of age at the time of the hazing.

The owner of the place where hazing is conducted shall be liable as an accomplice, when he has an actual knowledge of the hazing conducted therein but failed to take any action to prevent the same from occurring. If the hazing is held in the home of one of the officers or members of the fraternity, group, or organization, the parents shall be held liable as principals when they have actual knowledge of the hazing conducted therein but failed to take any action to prevent the same from occurring.

The school authorities including faculty members who consent to the hazing or who have actual knowledge thereof, but failed to take any action to prevent the same from occurring shall be punished as accomplices for the acts of hazing committed by the perpetrators.

The officers or alumni of the organization, group, fraternity or sorority who *actually planned the hazing although not present when the acts constituting the hazing were committed* shall be liable as principals. A fraternity or sorority's adviser who is present when the acts constituting the hazing were committed and failed to take action to prevent the same from occurring shall be liable as principal.

The presence of any person is *prima facie* evidence of participation therein as principal unless he prevented the commission of the acts punishable herein.

Any person charged under this provision shall not be entitled to the mitigating circumstances that there was no intention to commit so grave a wrong.

**Section 5.** If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof shall remain valid and effective

**Section 6.** All laws, orders, rules or regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

**Section 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen calendar days after its publication in at least two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved