

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

SENATE

S. No. 365

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, as an archipelago, is among very few places in the world ideally situated with abundant marine resources that its citizens can all be proud of. Its uniqueness entails enormous potentials of marine-related industries as source of economic development.

In the United States, a foundation aiming to enrich appreciation of the marine environment has been developed to create innovative and stimulating educational programs and research projects concerning maritime resources. It has been in operation since 1985, serving five thousand students and teachers each year¹.

The country's nature as an archipelago and its incomparable richness in marine resources preempts a much greater necessity to carry out similar initiative. It is thus essential to make maritime matter part of the basic education of each Filipino.

This bill promotes marine resources awareness through requiring the inclusion of maritime/marine education as a separate subject in elementary and high school curriculum. This bill recognizes that the inclusion of marine education in the primary and secondary school curriculum will allow future generations to flourish and emerge to become part of the country's drive to establish our national identity as an archipelagic State.

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


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

¹ *Marine Resources Development Foundation*. Data retrieved at <http://www.marinelab.org/> on 21 April 2009.

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AN ACT
TO PROMOTE MARINE RESOURCES AWARENESS THROUGH REQUIRING THE
INCLUSION OF MARITIME/MARINE EDUCATION AS A SEPARATE SUBJECT IN
ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act may be cited as the “*Marine Resources Awareness*
2 *and Education Act*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide
5 an integrated system of education specifically to elementary and high school students. In
6 recognition of the country’s rich marine resources and the role of education to encourage
7 nationalism, it is also hereby declared the policy of the State to promote national awareness on
8 the relevance of such vast resources of the country through the integration of marine education
9 into the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools nationwide.

10
11 **SEC. 3. *Objectives.*** – This Act shall have the following objectives:

- 12 a) to promote national awareness and instill national pride, concern and responsibility as
13 regards the country’s marine resources;
- 14 b) establish and consolidate national characteristic and identity as an archipelagic State;

1 c) orient and broaden the knowledge of the next generation of the State as an
2 archipelago, the vastness of the country's marine wealth, the possibilities of
3 developing such and other marine-related industries as source of economic strength;
4 and

5 d) to emphasize the value of marine resources conservation by incorporating actual
6 activities, projects or programs to conserve such resources;

7
8 **SEC. 4. *Maritime/Marine Education Subject in the Elementary and High School***
9 ***Level.*** – There shall be a separate subject on Marine Education in the curriculum of both
10 elementary and secondary schools nationwide.

11
12 **SEC. 5. *Integration with Community Service Programs.*** – To fully realize the objectives
13 of this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with other concerned agencies, shall
14 include marine education and awareness activities in the community service programs of the
15 schools.

16
17 **SEC. 6. *Development of Subject Content.*** – The Department of Education Secretary
18 shall appoint a Head Subject Specialist who shall be the lead person in coordinating all activities
19 necessary for the development and implementation of the subject in both elementary and
20 secondary level. The Head Subject Specialist shall conduct a multi-sectoral consultation with
21 educators from public and private high schools and other related agencies for the purpose of
22 determining the appropriate content and scope of the subject.

23 The Department of Education is mandated to create programs that will ensure that
24 students receive quality information concerning the maritime resources of the country.

1 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Education shall
2 formulate and adopt the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this
3 Act.

4
5 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall
6 be taken from the appropriations of the Department of Education under the current General
7 Appropriations Act.

8
9 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall at any time be found to
10 be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such declaration shall
11 remain in full force and effect.

12
13 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent with
14 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

15
16 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
17 its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,