

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

8 JUL 14 AM 1:57

SENATE

S. No. 2441

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

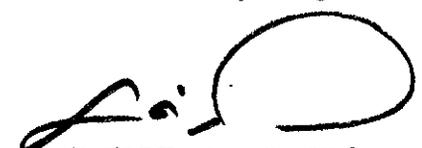
On October 22, 2003, the Philippine Senate ratified the Kyoto Protocol which is an international treaty to combat global warming. The Kyoto Protocol legally binds 141 State Parties to reduce the global discharge of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and sets targets and timetables for developed countries to reduce their collective GHG emissions by 5% of their 1990 levels during the period 2008 - 2012. Various studies have indicated that greenhouse gases are accumulating in the atmosphere, causing global temperatures to rise at a rate that poses a significant threat to the economy and security of all nations, to public health and welfare, and to the global environment.

With this development, the urgent need to focus on the issues concerning climate change and global warming has been gaining greater attention in the agenda of most countries in the world. To date, the phenomenon of climate change in our country is manifested in extreme climate events through the occurrence of severe El Niño and La Niña, deadly and damaging typhoons and other severe storms, floods, flash floods, landslides, drought, etc. These extreme events have one thing in common – persistent torrential rains, causing landslides and flash floods, killing people and destroying properties and the environment along its path.

The alarming threat of the adverse effects of climate change in people's lives warrants a comprehensive information, education and communication (IEC) campaign in order for the general public to cooperate with the programs being implemented by our government and its various stakeholders. Providing clear information about global warming, in a variety of forms, can increase understanding and encourage individuals and communities to take proactive action.

This proposed measure seeks to include the issue of climate change and global warming in the curriculum in primary and secondary school institutions in the country. Moreover, this proposed measure seeks to institutionalize and establish a Climate Change Education Program in order to broaden the understanding of climate change, its possible long and short-term consequences and potential solutions, and to provide formal and informal learning opportunities on the issues concerning climate change and global warming.

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


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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

8 JUL 14 AM 11:52

SENATE

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**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION AND
AWARENESS PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act may be cited as the "**Climate Change Education Act of 2008**".

SEC. 2. Inclusion in the Curriculum. - The teaching of climate change and global warming is hereby required to be part of the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools in the Philippines.

SEC. 3. Climate Change Education Program. - The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) shall establish a Climate Change Education Program which shall include the following objectives:

- (1) to broaden the understanding of climate change and global warming, including its possible short-term and long-term consequences and potential solutions;
- (2) to apply the latest scientific and technological discoveries to provide formal and informal learning opportunities to people of all ages, including those of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds; and
- (3) to emphasize actionable information to help people understand and to promote implementation of new technologies, programs, and incentives related to energy conservation, renewable energy, and greenhouse gas reduction.

SEC. 4. Program Elements of the Climate Change Education Program.
- The Climate Change Education Program shall include the following program elements:

(1) a national information, education and communication (IEC) campaign to disseminate information on and promote the implementation of the new technologies and programs related to climate change; and

(2) a technical assistance grant program to be given to the various local government units, institutions and other organizations in order to create informal education materials, exhibits, and multimedia presentations relevant to climate change and climate science; develop climate science curriculum and supplementary educational materials; and publish climate change and climate science information in print, electronic, and audio-visual forms.

SEC. 5. *National Climate Change Awareness Week.* - In order to mainstream the issue on climate change and global warming in our country, the first week of October of every year is hereby declared as the "Climate Change Awareness Week". This week will be celebrated nationwide so that various stakeholders and advocates on climate change and global warming all over the nation can celebrate and increase public awareness on the issues concerning climate change in the country. Said week-long activity will be spearheaded by the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

All educational institutions throughout the country are hereby enjoined to give their support to the celebration of the National Climate Change Awareness Week by conducting their respective activities with the active participation of all their students, faculties and staff.

SEC. 6. *Annual National Conference on Climate Change.* - The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of Energy (DEO), is hereby mandated to conduct an Annual National Climate Change Conference which will be participated by the various stakeholders in the field of climate change and global warming issues, including government regulators, policy makers, research and academic institutions and various stakeholders in the advocacy to address climate change and global warming issues.

The Annual National Climate Change Conference is envisioned to be an avenue where various stakeholders can share their knowledge on the issues and trends relating to the implications of climate change and global warming.

The proceedings of the Annual National Climate Change Conference will be published and be made available to the public.

SEC. 7. *Reportorial Requirements to Congress.* – After two (2) years from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DepEd shall submit a comprehensive report to both Houses of Congress on the programs, projects and activities conducted by the Department in line with the provisions of this Act. Thereafter, the DepEd shall be required to submit an annual comprehensive report to Congress at the end of every fiscal year.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within sixty (60) days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd) shall adopt the necessary implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to implement the provisions of this measure.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed for this purpose shall be taken from the appropriations of the Department of Education (DepEd). Thereafter, such amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,