

JUL -7 AM 24

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 567

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to make human rights subjects a mandatory part of the curriculum of all educational institutions in the country. The need for human rights education comes timely with the raging debate over the death penalty which is a human rights issue. It is a matter that should be discussed in the classrooms if we are to have a well-informed citizenry that is aware of and sensitive to the human rights of the victim of a crime and the accused who is criminally charged with its commission.

Various sectors in society, the Church included, have acknowledged the urgent need for human rights to be discussed with the young citizens of this country. It is high time, therefore, that the value of human rights must be inculcated in our youth.

Article XIV, Section 3, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides:

"(1) All educational institutions shall include the study of the Constitution as part of the curricula."

"(2) They shall inculcate patriotism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote efficiency."

Moreover, the Constitution empowers and mandates the Commission on Human Rights as provided in Article XIII, Section 18 (5) and (6), to do the following:

"(5) Establish a continuing program of research, education, and information to enhance respect for the primacy of human rights."

"(6) Recommend to Congress effective measures to promote human rights and to provide for compensation to victims of violations of human rights, or their families."

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

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AN ACT
REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS MANDATORY IN ALL
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – All public and private schools shall include human rights courses in their curricula. No school shall be established or allowed to operate unless this requirement is complied with.

SEC 2. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights, shall formulate courses on human rights to be taught as separate courses or incorporated in existing subjects now being taught in all levels of education throughout the country.

SEC 3. The Department of Education, shall also consult and coordinate with the Commission on Human Rights in the writing, printing and publication of textbooks, manuals and other reading materials to be used in the human rights courses.

SEC 4. This Act shall be implemented initially within the framework of the budget of the Department of Education, for the year it is enacted into law. As far as practicable, the funds required therefor shall be drawn from its appropriations for policy formulation, program planning, standards development and instructional materials development.

Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the Department of Education, in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC 5. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights, shall, within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, prepare the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC 6. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,