Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 562



Introduced by Rep. ROBERTO C. CAJES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Knowledge of our history is undoubtedly an important facet of our life as a people. Knowing our past is a crucial element for us to be able to understand our present and charter a well-planned future.

At present, the Philippine educational system has integrated history into the curriculum mostly in the context of national events. So much emphasis has been given on personalities and events at the national capital and other major cities in the country. Yet we hardly know the very history of our own village or municipality.

The present curriculum in history obviously lacks the necessary information at the local level. While our youth have been bombarded with the life stories of our national heroes, for example, they lack knowledge on the historical significance of their very own communities.

This dent of information has consequently created a gap in the political consciousness of our youth. Due to the lack of information of their rich socio-historical past, the youth today tend to feel less proud of their communities, and consequently, less motivated to get involved in larger concerns such as socio-political activities.

This representation believes that in order to truly enrich our historical and political consciousness, efforts must be made to encourage the flourishing of the research of local histories and their integration into the curriculum of elementary and secondary schools.

If we take pride at our roots, fueled by the fact that we know our past, this is motivation enough for the youth and our current crop of leaders to fully work for our community's development and progress.

There have been commendable efforts by the academe to kick-off researches on local histories. But this is not quite enough.

Government has to institutionalize these research efforts and pour funds for such endeavors in order to make it participatory, dynamic, and truly reflective of our story as a community people.

It is in this context that the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

ROBERTO C. CAJES

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE RESEARCH OF LOCAL HISTORIES AND INTEGRATING SUCH FINDINGS INTO THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY CURRICULUM OF EVERY MUNICIPALITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Local Histories Research and Curriculum Integration Act of 2004".

SECTION 2. The Department of Education shall issue the rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 3. All personnel necessary to carry out the research and development of local histories shall be directly under the office of the Secretary of Department of Education.

SECTION 4. The academic instructors of local histories shall be specially trained on the field of local histories and will likewise be directly under the supervision of the office of the DepEd Secretary.

SECTION 5. The manner at which researches on local histories shall have been made has to be participatory at the community level and shall employ oral and documented materials.

SECTION 6. The research findings shall be verified by professional historians and written in a manner and form that these become an integral part of the elementary and high school curricula.

SECTION 7. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,