Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 341

Introduced by Hon. Aurelio "Oyie" Matias Umali

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill attempts to include the teaching of ecology as of the possible subjects in all elementary and high school levels of the Philippines pursuant to the promotion of environmental consciousness provided in Section 16 Article II of the New Constitution.

The Philippine educational system today lacks the quality of a holistic education. Its concern focuses primarily on the mental and corporal development of the youth, to the exclusion of the environmental concerns/needs of the society. For the past number of years, our country experienced environmental holocaust ascribable to the wanton destruction of forest reserves, soil erosion, siltation, pollution, nuclear and toxic waste, endangering the future generations. Such arises due to the unintegrated and speculative system of education offered to the youth, which in reality do not respond to the needs of the people. Although the system theoretically encourages critical and creative thinking, it fails empirically to promote environmental awareness and vigilance which is a condition sine qua non to a holistic educational required under the New Constitution.

The bill requiring the teaching of ecology aims to make our educational system complete, adequate and integrated relevant to the needs of the people and the society as provided in Section 2, par. 1 of Article XIV of our constitution. In effect, a priori, the youth will become more ecologically aware and vigilant, understand the dynamic relationships which support and maintain the bio-system, demonstrate practical solutions to the intricacies of the environmental imbalance the Philippines is facing. Such ecological subject will surely re-orient our sense of education and progress that the achievement of common vision for natural progress depends primordially on a holistic and liberal education.

In order to effectively deal with the escalating ecological decay of our environment, the State opt to promote environmental activism under Section 16 of Article II of the Constitution as a form of moral and political expressions in relation to Section 17 of the same Article prioritizing education to promote total human liberation and development. Thus, favorable action on this matter is earnestly requested.

AURELIO "OYIE" MATIAS UMALI
Representative
3rd District, Nueva Ecija

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 141

Introduced by Hon. Aurelio "Oyie" Matias Umali

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE TEACHING OF ECOLOGY IN ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS, WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Sec. 1 The teaching of ecology as a separate subject is hereby included as one of the possible subject in all elementary and secondary levels, either public or private, of the Philippines. The Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary reading materials, booklets and pamphlets dealing with the fundamentals of ecology in relation to the pressing environmental issues in the Philippines.

Sec. 2 The amount necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations allotted for the Department of Education under the General Appropriations Act of the current fiscal year. Thereafter, such sums may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 3 This act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved.