

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4236



Introduced by Honorable Arthur D. Defensor

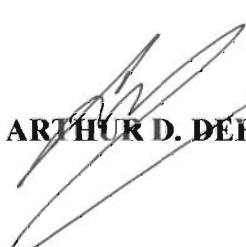
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution provides that "the State recognizes the role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs."

The State's interest in molding the young into nationalistic and civic-minded citizens requires the promotion of the virtues of citizenship and the improvement of their moral fiber. Indeed, these virtues should rank foremost in education's aim of shaping the minds of the youth not only to become productive members of society but instill in them the sense of responsibility for the welfare of others.

This bill requires intermediate grade school and high school students in both public and private schools to render at least fifty (50) hours of community service as a prerequisite to graduation. The social value of these activities must be conceded for they pertain to the civic and social development of the young, which admittedly constitutes a substantial and essential part of the nation.

The best way of involving the youth in public and civic affairs is by immersing them in community service. At an early age, they should be exposed albeit vicariously to practical realities. The time they spend in community service though short should allow them some degree of fulfillment in helping others and hopefully teach them to cope with the demands of community life.


ARTHUR D. DEFENSOR

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**AN ACT
REQUIRING INTERMEDIATE GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS TO DO COMMUNITY WORK AS PART OF THEIR
CURRICULUM AND AS PREREQUISITE FOR GRADUATION.**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (1) “Community service” refers to any work or task in helping others in the community in ways such as cleaning out parks or ponds, planting trees, helping others to read or improving the communal playgrounds and other similar actions for the welfare of the community.
- (2) “Intermediate” refers to grade levels 5, 6, 7 in the elementary.

SEC. 3. *Community Service in the Intermediate School Level.* – Intermediate pupils in public and private schools are hereby required to do community service consisting of at least fifty (50) hours as part of their school curricula and as prerequisite for their graduation.

SEC. 4. *High School Students to Choose From Citizen's Army Training, Scouting or Community Service.* – High school students in public and private schools are hereby

given the option to choose what to undertake from the following programs as prerequisite for their graduation: (a) undergoing the Citizen's army Training (CAT) as provided under Commonwealth Act No. 1, which is hereby declared as an optional course; (b) undergoing training courses given by the Boy Scouts of the Philippines or the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, as the case may be; (c) undertaking at least fifty (50) hours of community service as defined by this Act.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Education shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations and/or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provision of this Act, are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,