

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2356**

Introduced by **Kabataan Party-List Rep. Raymond V. Palatino**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution provides for the recognition of "the vital role of the youth in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being." Furthermore, the State "shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civil affairs."

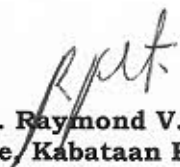
Under the present educational system, one of the steps undertaken by the government to uphold such policy framework is through the incorporation of military training in the curriculum of educational institutions beginning from the secondary until the tertiary level. In particular, the government has created the Citizenship Advancement Training (CAT), formerly known as the Citizen's Army Training, for high school students. At present,

The historical context upon which the CAT was created and institutionalized is the need during colonial period for, in the words of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, "a nation of trained men ready to defend their country." Thus, President Quezon's first act upon his term of Presidency of the Commonwealth, as prepared and implemented by his military adviser, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, was Commonwealth Act No. 1 or the National Defense Act. Among the salient provisions of the said law is the inclusion of a compulsory and preparatory military training for the youth, starting beginning with the youth in elementary grade school at the age of ten years.

This representation, after consulting with various student and youth groups, has come to the conclusion that the CAT has should be abolished and replaced by a program that is more focused on addressing the needs of the times. The author of this bill seeking to abolish the CAT believes that the National Defense Act is antiquated and irrelevant as times have changed. High School students must not undergo preparatory military training as it is not suited for their age. Preparatory military training must only be an option for students in the tertiary level.

Instead, I believe that what the nation needs today is not an army of men trained in the ways of the military but an army of volunteers and advocates ready to serve and uphold the needs of their communities and the nation as a whole. Thus, this bill seeks to replace the CAT with an Alternative Social Action Program for high school students which shall strengthen social action/orientation programs like the Literacy Training Service and the Civic Welfare Training Service. For in the present, what the youth needs to defend against are the threats of illiteracy and of political and social apathy, and the perpetuation of social inequities that continue to obstruct genuine national progress. Through the creation of the proposed Social Action Program for high school students, the government can truly foster among the youth patriotism, nationalism and selfless service to others as enshrined in the Constitution.

In light of the foregoing, the urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


Hon. Raymond V. Palatino
Representative, Kabataan Party-List

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2356

Introduced by **KABATAAN Party-list Rep. Raymond V. Palatino**

AN ACT
CREATING THE ALTERNATIVE SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ABOLISHING THE CITIZENSHIP ADVANCEMENT TRAINING

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

SECTION 1. *Abolition of the Citizenship Advancement Training.* – The Citizenship Advancement Training created pursuant to Commonwealth Act No. 1, otherwise known as the National Defense Act is hereby abolished.

SECTION 2. *Social Action Program (SAP).* – In lieu of the CAT, all secondary educational institutions in the country, both public and private shall include Social Action Programs as options in their academic curricula. The establishment of social action desks or institutes, in schools where there are none, shall be supervised by the school in direct coordination, with the active participation and meaningful consultation with the school's student councils, publications and organizations. If there are parallel SAP's already existing, reviews, direct coordination, active participation and meaningful consultations shall be held with the school's student councils, publications and organizations.

SECTION 3. *Components of the Social Action Program.* – Students shall have the option to select from any of the following components of the Social Action Program, which they shall undertake, including:

- (a) Literacy Training Service, which is a program designed to train students to become teachers of literacy skills to school children, out of school youth and other sectors of society in need of their service;

- (b) Civic Welfare Training Service, which refers to programs and activities aimed at contributing to the general welfare and the betterment of life for the members of the community such as, but not limited to, tree planting, street cleaning, waste segregation, traffic management, and other related activities;
- (c) Disaster Preparedness and Ecological Service Program, which includes environmental protection and awareness campaign, rescue and relief operations for victims of natural calamities, medical and humanitarian missions, lectures and activities on disaster prevention and preparedness, and other related activities;
- (d) Community Immersion, which includes exposure and immersion among the basic sectors, such as the trade unions, fisher folk, indigenous people, peasants, rural and urban poor communities, among others.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Agency.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall have the authority in drafting and ensuring the implementation of the necessary rules and regulations for this Act and will likewise ensure compliance therewith. Together with DepEd, school authorities, designated SAP coordinators and student organizations and institutions shall coordinate with regard to the formulation and implementation of the said rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be incorporated in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuance, and rules and regulations, or part thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, the remaining sections or provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,