

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4337**

Introduced by Kabataan Party-List Representative Raymond V. Palatino

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has been said time and again that learning should not be confined within the four walls of the classroom. This means that students should not only learn through formal learning instruction, official textbooks and voluminous readings required by professors, but more importantly, they should immerse themselves into the larger society that exists outside their private lives—the society that breeds their personal tribulations, the society that affects their decisions and aspirations in life.

Learning beyond the four walls of the classroom also means that students should be open to ideas, perspectives and concepts seldom discussed inside the academe. By opening themselves to a variety of ideas, concepts and perspectives, they are exposed to the larger and more realistic picture of the world outside their confined spaces.

Some student formations and groups such as student councils and student organizations try to achieve this by holding alternative classes and educational discussions among students. The University Student Council of the University of the Philippines Diliman, for instance, conducts an Alternative Classroom Learning Experience (ACLE) once every semester. The ACLE aims to educate the students with additional learning not usually taught within the classroom. It is a radical departure from the academic-based curriculum of schools. It is a venue wherein the students are given the opportunity to earn various skills and knowledge through thematic fora, symposia, film showings, and workshops. The ACLE is like a one-day alternative classes festival organized by the

student council and participated in by student organizations who invite speakers, conduct trainings, etc. The activity, which was originally proposed by UP Diliman Student Council, was later institutionalized in the different UP campuses.

Alternative classroom activities are also held in other schools such as Ateneo de Manila High School (KLIK or *Klaseng Ibang Klase*), University of Santo Tomas, and Polytechnic University of the Philippines. During the 2nd National Youth Parliament of the National Youth Commission, the delegates approved a resolution urging the Commission on Higher Education to institutionalize the ACLE to all universities and colleges.

The ACLE is conducted on the premise that learning should be fun, that school administrators should foster academic freedom and critical thinking among its students and that various sectors inside the academe should be exposed to the issues of the community. This bill, thus, seeks to institutionalize the said activity to all secondary and tertiary educational institutions throughout the country and encourage students to participate in the conduct of alternative classes.



HON. RAYMOND V. PALATINO
Representative, Kabataan Party-List

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM LEARNING
EXPERIENCE (ACLE) PROGRAM TO ALL SECONDARY AND TERTIARY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This act shall be known as the “Alternative Classes Act of
2 2011.”

3
4 **SECTION 2. Alternative Classroom Learning Experience.** – The Alternative Classroom
5 Learning Experience (ACLE) Program is a student-led and -organized activity that fosters
6 academic freedom inside our nation's campuses. It aims to provide students with alternative
7 viewpoints, perspectives, ideas, and concepts not usually discussed through formal learning
8 instruction and not usually found in textbooks and official educational materials. Activities
9 related to the ACLE Program shall include but not limited to the following: workshops,
10 educational discussions, training, fora, symposia, film showing and/or audiovisual
11 presentations, lectures.

12
13 **SECTION 3.** All secondary and tertiary educational institutions are mandated to conduct an
14 Alternative Classroom Learning Experience (ACLE) activity at least once every semester or
15 term, as the case may be. Student councils or student governments shall be primarily in
16 charge of organizing the said activity. School administrations shall provide the necessary
17 assistance to the student body to carry out the aim of this activity.

1
2 **SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Education and
3 the Commission on Higher Education, in coordination with youth groups and organizations,
4 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to enforce the objectives of this Act.
5

6 **SECTION 5. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion
7 of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,