

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 741

Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon



EXPLANATORY NOTE

Human Rights are rights inherent in all human beings, whatever nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status. All humans are entitled to Human Rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. The principle of the universality of human rights is the cornerstone of international human rights law and has been reiterated in numerous international human rights conventions, declarations and resolutions. In fact, all States have ratified at least one, and 80% of States have ratified four or more, of the core human treaties reflecting the consent of States which creates legal obligations for them and giving concrete expressions of universality. In a time where heinous crimes are committed against basic Human Rights, there is a need for heightened awareness. However, it is unfortunate that the subject of "Human Rights" is being taught by schools in the Philippines only on a voluntary basis. We should promote awareness and education of Human Rights to our youth in order for them to be advocates of Human Rights and the instruments for the realization of social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights.

Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr. supported this cause by seeking through legislation, to make human rights subjects a mandatory part of the curriculum of all educational institutions in the country during the 14th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this initiative is earnestly sought.


HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District of Northern Samar

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AN ACT
REQUIRING THE MANDATORY TEACHING OF HUMAN RIGHTS
IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE
PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. All public and private elementary and high schools shall include human rights courses in their curricula. No school shall be established or allowed to operate unless this requirement is complied with.

SEC. 2. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights, shall formulate courses on human rights to be taught as separate courses or incorporated in existing subjects now being taught in all levels of education throughout the country.

SEC. 3. The Department of Education, shall also consult and coordinate with the Commission on Human Rights in the writing, printing and publication of textbooks, manuals and other reading materials to be used in the human rights courses.

SEC. 4. This Act shall be implemented initially within the framework of the budget of the Department of Education, for the year it is enacted into law. As far as practicable, the funds required therefor shall be drawn from its appropriations for policy formulation, program planning, standards development and instructional materials development. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the Department of Education, in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights, shall, within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, prepare the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,