

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1122



Introduced by Representative EDGAR R. ERICE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The original objective of the creation of the Sangguniang Kabataan as a training ground for the country's future leaders is a noble one. However, through the years, it has been observed that the ugly side of Philippine politics has served to distract the Sangguniang Kabataan from its primordial mission. It has become the logical first target of any local politician who is seeking a higher position.

Critics also contend that instead of training SK officials on leadership and citizenship, the system has instead exposed them to corrupt practices of their unscrupulous elders in the government service. The SK has, sadly speaking, become both a tool and a vehicle for the proliferation of corruption. Add to this the fact that SK officers have to deal with the conflicting demands of completing an education, fulfilling family obligations and performing official government functions.

The question now is how do we protect our youth from the pernicious influences of traditional politics? The solution is actually quite simple: abolish the Sangguniang Kabataan and replace it with a more viable forum for youth participation in local governance. This bill aims to establish in every grassroots village a Barangay Youth Council which will take the place of the Sangguniang Kabataan and ensure youth representation in local decision-making.

The wisdom of this proposal is buttressed by recent findings by no less than the Commission on Elections and other concerned government agencies that the voter turnout among the youth covered by the Sangguniang Kabataan has been dismally low. This undeniably manifests the waning interest of the youth in SK elections.

The undersigned earnestly considers this proposed legislation as both timely and of vital significance, and therefore worthy of the support of the august assembly.



EDGAR R. ERICE
Representative

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Begun and held in Metro Manila, on _____, the _____th day of _____, twenty
hundred and thirteen.

Introduced by Representative EDGAR R. ERICE

AN ACT
ABOLISHING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND CREATING THE BARANGAY
YOUTH COUNCIL IN LIEU THEREOF, REPEALING THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Abolition of the Sangguniang Kabataan – The Sangguniang Kabataan, as created under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby abolished. The pertinent provisions of RA 7160 referring to the Sangguniang Kabataan are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

Section 2. Creation of the Barangay Youth Council – There is hereby established an entity in every barangay, to be called the Barangay Youth Council, whose primary function shall be the planning, formulation and development of programs for the youth, particularly in, but not limited to, the areas of sports, education, culture and arts, and environment.

Section 3. Composition of the Barangay Youth Council – The Barangay Youth Council shall be composed of one (1) Chairperson and four (4) committee heads. The Barangay Youth Council shall report directly to the Sangguniang Barangay. The Chairperson of the Barangay Youth Council shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Punong Barangay.

Section 3.a. Chairperson of the Barangay Youth Council – The youngest elected member of the Sangguniang Barangay shall ipso facto become the Chairperson of the Barangay Youth Council.

Section 3.b. Committee Heads - The Chairperson of the Barangay Youth Council shall have the power to appoint the heads of the four (4) committees, namely: the Committee on Sports, the Committee on Education, the Committee on Culture and Arts, and the Committee on Environment.

Section 3.b.1. Chair of the Committee on Sports – The Chairperson of the Committee on Sports shall be tasked with developing sports programs and activities for the youth residents of the barangay, including

the initiation of the construction of the multi-purpose sports facilities.

Section 3.b.2. *Chairman of the Committee on Education* - The Chairman of the Committee on Education shall be tasked with the formulation of educational programs within the barangay and information campaign aimed at instilling awareness and discipline among the youth in the barangay.

Section 3.b.3. *Chairman of the Committee on Culture and Arts* - The Chairman of the Committee on Culture and Arts shall be tasked with promoting the local arts and socio-civic activities of the barangay community.

Section 3.b.4. *Chairman of the Committee on Environment* - The Chairman of the Committee on Environment shall be tasked with implementing the cleanliness campaign in conjunction with the development plan to be adopted by the local government unit of which their barangay is under.

Section 4. *Qualifications of the Committee Chairmen of the Youth Council* - The respective Chairmen of the different Committees shall have the following qualifications:

1. At least fifteen (15) years of age but not over twenty-one (21);
2. A resident of the Barangay for at least six (6) months; -
3. No prior conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude and that there are no pending cases filed against him involving any such offense;
4. Not related to the appointing authority within four (4) civil degrees, either by affinity or consanguinity; and
5. Should not have been a candidate for any elective position at the Barangay Level.

Section 5. *Qualifications of the Youth Representative to the Local Samnggunian* - The Youth Representative of the local legislative body shall have the following qualifications:

1. At least fifteen (15) years old but not over twenty-one (21);
2. A resident of the local government unit wherein the local legislative body presides for at least six (6) months;
3. No prior conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude and that there are not pending cases filed against him involving such offense;
4. Not related to the appointing authority within four (4) civil degrees, either by affinity or consanguinity; and
5. Should not have been a candidate for any elective position during the immediately preceding elections, including both local and Barangay elections.

Section 6. Budget - The operational expenses of the Barangay Youth Council shall be taken from the general fund of the Barangay, which in no case shall exceed ten percent (10%) thereof, subject to the approval of the Sangguniang Barangay.

Section 7. Youth Representation in the Sangguniang Bayan Panlungsod Panlalawigan - The chief executive of the local government unit concerned shall appoint the representative of the youth sector, subject to the confirmation of the Sanggunian concerned, who shall sit officially in the corresponding local legislative council.

Section 8. Disbursement - The Chairman of the Barangay Youth Council shall be responsible for the disbursement of the budgetary expenses of the Council, subject to the approval of the Sangguniang Barangay.

Section 9. Youth Volunteerism - The Barangay Youth Council shall ensure to promote the active participation of youth volunteers for the effective implementation of its projects.

Section 10. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules or regulations or parts thereof inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby expressly repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 11. Separability Clause - If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 12. Effectivity - This Act shall become effective fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,