

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 1497



Introduced by Congresswoman BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Art. XIV Sec. 4(1) of the Constitution mandates the State to exercise reasonable supervision and regulation of all educational institutions. Included in this mandate is the State's responsibility to ensure a safe and secure environment for students to pursue their studies within these institutions without fear for their physical well-being.

There has been a steady increase in the crime rate in campuses all over the country. It is necessary for both students, their parents and/or their guardians to have access to information with regard to campus crime statistics, as well as crime prevention plans in these campuses to equip them in making an informed choice as to which school to send their children.

At the same time, students currently enrolled in their respective universities need to know the measures undertaken by their institution, as well as courses of action in cases of emergency to guarantee security and expedient assistance, if need be.

In view of the foregoing, early and immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO
Representative
Lone District, Aurora Province

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AN ACT
MANDATING ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO CREATE A CRIME
PREVENTION COMMITTEE THAT SHALL ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF
THEIR STUDENTS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as "*The Campus Safety Act.*"

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* It is the declared responsibility of the State to defend the right of the youth to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty and exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development as provided under the Constitution. It is also hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure access to quality education by ensuring the safety and security of students in all institutions of higher learning and recognizing the role of the youth in nation building and in the development of the country. Pursuant thereto,

Sec. 3. *Scope.* This Act shall apply to all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), including State Universities and Colleges, Local Universities and Colleges and Private HEIs.

Sec. 4. *Creation of a Crime Prevention Committee (CPC).* A CPC shall be established in every HEI to formulate policies and strategies that shall help protect students from both internal and external threats to their safety and security, such as theft, robbery, rape and other forms of violence within and outside the area where the HEI is located.

Sec. 5. *Composition of the CPC.* The CPC in every HEI shall be composed of the following:

- a. The Vice President for community affairs or any other designee in the College or University, whose office deals with campus security and safety, as presiding officer;
- b. The Vice President for student affairs or any other designee in the College or University, whose office deals with the welfare and discipline of students, as alternate presiding officer;
- c. The Secretary of the University Student Council, as the committee secretary;

- d. The University Student Council/Supreme Council President or Chairperson, as member;
- e. The Class Presidents of the high school level and the College Presidents or Chairpersons of the college level, and the Corps Commander of the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and the Citizens Army Training (CAT), as members;
- f. The Head of Campus Police or Security Personnel, as member;
- g. A Representative of student groups, as member; and
- h. The President of the Parent-Teachers' Association or its equivalent, as member.

Sec. 6. Duties and Responsibilities of the CPC. The CPC shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

A. To formulate, in consultation, with the School Head, Chief of Police where the college or university is located, Punong Barangay, and other security specialists as they deem fit, a Crime Prevention Strategy. Such Crime Prevention Strategy shall include, but not be limited, to the following:

- 1) A statement of current campus policies regarding procedures and facilities for students and others to report criminal actions or other emergencies occurring on campus and policies concerning the institution's response to such reports;
- 2) A statement of current policies concerning security and access to campus facilities, including campus residences, and security considerations used in the maintenance of campus facilities;
- 3) A statement of current policies concerning campus law enforcement including but not limited to:
 - a) The enforcement authority of security personnel, including their working relationship with national and local police agencies, and
 - b). Policies which encourage accurate and prompt reporting of all crimes to the campus police and the appropriate police agencies;
- 4) A description of the type and frequency of programs designed to inform students and employees about campus security procedures and practices and to encourage students and employees to be responsible for their own security and security of others;
- 5) A description of programs designed to inform students and employees about the prevention of crimes;
- 6) Statistics concerning the occurrence on campus, during the most recent school year, and during the two (2) preceding school years for which data are available, including, but not limited to the following criminal offenses reported to campus security authorities or local police agencies: homicide, murder, physical injuries, rape, robbery, theft and sexual harassment;

7) A statement of policy concerning the monitoring and recoding through local police agencies of criminal activity at off-campus student organizations which are recognized by the institution and that are engaged in by students attending the institution, including those student organizations with off campus housing facilities;

8) Statistics concerning the number of arrests for the following crimes occurring on campus: liquor law violations; drug abuse violations; and possession of weapons; and

9) Statement of policy regarding the possession, use, and sale of alcoholic beverages and enforcement of underage drinking laws and a statement of policy regarding the possession, use and sale of illegal drugs and enforcement of drug laws and a description of any drug or alcohol abuse education programs;

B. To formulate crime prevention programs for the implementation of the Committee;

C. To coordinate with college/school principals or deans, as the case may be, in the maintenance of peace and order within the school/college/university premises;

D. To recommend to the school/college/university the conduct of seminars or trainings on the crime and drug prevention and control in coordination with the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) regional office, local police station or Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) - Patrol 117;

E. To conduct intensive information drive on the Crime Prevention Strategy which includes its semestral distribution of copies and orientation thereon; and

F. To submit to Commission on Higher Education (CHED), through its CHED Regional Offices (CHEDROs), the composition of CPC and the Crime Prevention Strategy, as well as its program of activities and projects for the Academic Year two (2) months after the closing of enrolment in the First Semester and accomplishment report within two (2) months after finishing the second semester or trimester of the academic year.

Sec. 7. *Non-Interference in Peaceful Student Demonstrations.* The CPC shall not, in any way, interfere or prevent students from holding peaceful rallies, demonstrations and protest actions if such were held in connection with the exercise of their constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression, except if violence erupts during the said mass actions.

Sec. 8. *Duty of the College or University President.* The Office of the College or University President shall submit to the CHEDRO the following:

- a. Size of the college or university;
- b. Crime prevention strategy; and
- c. Accomplishment Report of the Committee.

Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The CHED, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepED), Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA), and the Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 10. *Approval and Review of the Crime Prevention Strategy.* The Crime Prevention Strategy, after approval of the Board of Trustees/Regents, shall be submitted to the CHED and shall be subject to its review. If found unsatisfactory by the CHED, taking into consideration the circumstances of each college or university, it shall be returned to the Board for appropriate action: *Provided*, That pending its review, the Plan shall be implemented by the college or university concerned.

The Crime Prevention Strategy shall be subject to review or reassessment annually by the Board or as often as required by the circumstances.

Sec. 11. *Duties of the CHEDROs.* The CHEDROs shall coordinate, supervise and monitor the implementation of the crime prevention strategy, as approved, and projects of CPCs, jointly with the NAPOLCOM in the region. The Office of Student Services of the CHED shall consolidate regional reports for submission to the Office of the CHED chairperson through the Office of the Executive Director.

Sec. 12. *Administrative Liability.* Any HEI, its Board of Trustees or Regents, and other officers/persons responsible for the failure to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be subject to administrative sanctions to be imposed by the CHED.

Sec. 13. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 14. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 15. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,