

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



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2047**

Introduced by Kabataan Party-List Representative Terry L. Ridon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a truism that learning should not be confined within the four walls of the classroom. Even the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes this as Article 14, section 2 provides that the State shall encourage nonformal, informal and indigenous learning system, as well as self-learning independent, and out-of-school study programmes particularly those that respond to community needs. Students should not only learn through formal learning instruction and textbooks, but also through immersion into the larger society that exists beyond their private lives.

Pursuant to the foregoing, we now file a bill to institutionalize student-led alternative classes in secondary and tertiary educational institutions at least once a semester or term.

The bill was inspired by the student council-led activity in UP Diliman called the Alternative Classroom Learning Experience or ACLE. The ACLE is a one-day alternative classes festival organized by the student council and participated in by student organizations who invite speakers, conduct trainings, and similar activities. The ACLE aims to educate the students with additional learning not usually taught within the classroom— 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. With its success in UP Diliman, the ACLE has since then been institutionalized in other 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 3rd 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 Alternative Classes bill was originally filed under the 15th Congress by then Kabataan Representative Raymond V. Palatino. In our commitment to holistic development of the youth, we refile it under the present Congress, and urge the House of Representatives to see through the passage of the bill.



HON. TERRY L. RIDON
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"

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

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

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

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

Approved,