

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3026



Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS TO ENSURE AND PROVIDE SAFE
SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, in particular, Article 2, Sections 13 and 17, respectively, state that: *"The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs,"* and *"The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development."*

These provisions highlight the importance of quality education in securing the future of our children and our families. We stand a fighting chance to compete in the global economy if we have a better educated citizenry and workforce and more importantly, in maintaining a vibrant democracy.

One of the requisites in achieving such a goal is in providing safe school environments for our children. To effectively provide quality education, the government must provide students an environment conducive to learning.

A perennial problem in schools is the continued presence of violent students who pose a threat to both teachers and other students. This is incompatible with a safe learning environment which we want to provide since students are discouraged from

going to school. To make things worse, it also places those who are already at risk of school failure due to other reasons in further jeopardy.

There must be greater cooperation between schools, parents, law enforcement, the courts, and the community to make our schools safe from drugs and violence. This is what this proposed bill wants to address by establishing innovative programs to ensure and provide safe school environments.

Due to the reasons stated above, we therefore enjoin our colleagues to ensure the expeditious passage of this bill into law.



DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur



GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Safe School Environment Act of 2013."

SECTION 2. *Purpose.* – It is the purpose of this Act to urge the Department of Education and other educational agencies -

- (A) To provide comprehensive services to victims and witnesses of school violence;
- (B) To remove violent and drug selling student offenders from school premises;
- (C) To report violent crimes and drug dealing on school grounds to appropriate law enforcement authorities;
- (D) To involve parents, former armed forces personnel, and community volunteers in efforts to improve school safety; and
- (E) To develop innovative programs to improve the safety of our Nation's schools and to better serve at-risk students.

SECTION 3. *Authorization of Appropriations.* – There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SECTION 4. *Program Authorized.* -

(A) *In General.* – The Secretary of Education shall develop, establish, or conduct as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

(B) *Nature.* – The Secretary shall, for school implementation, focus on programs that -

(1) Provide parent and teacher notification of crimes or drug activity occurring at school;

(2) Provide for the suspension, delay, or restriction of driving privileges of students who have a conviction, an adjudication in a juvenile proceeding, or a finding in a school disciplinary proceeding, involving illegal drugs;

(3) Link educational institutions with community-based mentoring programs in order to link individual at-risk youth with responsible, individual adults who serve as mentors for the purpose of-

(a) Discouraging at-risk youth from using illegal drugs and dangerous weapons, and from violence, criminal activity, and involvement in gangs;

(b) Increasing youth participation in, and enhancing the ability of such youth to benefit from, elementary and secondary education;

(c) Promoting personal and social responsibility;

(d) Encouraging at-risk youth participation in community service and community activities; and

(e) Providing general guidance to at-risk youth.

(4) Include cooperative efforts between the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of National Defense to share the training and salary costs of former members of the Armed Forces, who shall be hired as teachers and assigned to teach in public elementary schools and secondary schools;

(5) Enhance school security measures that may include-

(a) Equipping schools with metal detectors, fences, closed circuit cameras, and other physical security measures;

(b) Providing increased police patrols in and around elementary schools and secondary schools;

(c) Mailing to parents at the beginning of the school year stating that the possession of a gun or other weapon, or the sale of drugs in schools, will not be tolerated by school authorities; and

(d) Gun hotlines.

(6) Provide protections for victims and witnesses to school crime, including protection for attendance at school disciplinary proceedings;

(7) Expel students who, on school grounds, sell drugs, or who commit a violent offense that causes serious bodily injury of another student or teacher; and

(8) Require referral to law enforcement authorities or juvenile authorities of any student who on school grounds-

(a) Commits a violent offense resulting in serious bodily injury; or

(b) Sells drugs.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause*. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,