

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6390



Introduced by HONORABLE SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the recent years, there has been an increase in awareness on environmental protection and sustainability. This was a result of the emergence of studies correlating global warming to the extensive waste generated by every household, commercial and industrial establishments; and the massive destruction of the world's natural resources brought about by the growing demands of the exponentially increasing population. Yet, there have been few attempts at resolving the issue. As such, the people's awareness has not transcended into concrete actions. As of today, we are very much knowledgeable about the need to preserve and protect the environment. However, we have ceased at such level.

Environmental Education is a learning process that increases knowledge and awareness about the environment and develops skills that enable responsible decisions and actions that impact the environment. Environmental Education promotes interdisciplinary learning, encourages inquiry and investigation, and develops problem-solving skills. Environmental Education is all about "how to think, not what to think."¹

Education has played an important role in the early years formation of children. It is in schools where children first learn how to read and write, properly communicate, cook, etc. It is these basic lessons that children bring with them when they mature and become contributors to the society.

However, there is one glaring omission in our school's curriculum: the lack of Environmental Education. If we teach our children these lessons in precaution and sustainability, they can play an integral role in making our schools, communities, and planet more sustainable and healthy² not just in the present but more importantly in the future.

Thus, this bill seeks to reform the country's education system by making Environmental Education a vital part of every school's curriculum. By teaching the youth about the value of the environment and the methods of protecting and preserving it, the State can help them become

¹https://www.georgiastandards.org/resources/Pages/Environmental_Education.aspx

² <http://www.greenschools.net/section.php?id=26>

catalysts of change in the combat against global warming. In doing this, we begin raising a generation full of awareness on the importance of the environment and a generation that will start a culture of environmental protection and sustainability.

Hence, the passage of this law is urgently sought.



SCOTT DAVIES S. LANETE, M.D.
Representative
Third District, Province of Masbate

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**AN ACT TO ADVANCE THE PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE
ENVIRONMENT AMONG ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS,
TO ADD A COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOL
CURRICULUM, ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 “Environmental Education Act of 2016.”

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Likewise, it is the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It is also the policy of the State to 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.

Sec. 3. *Mandatory Environmental Education Course* - It shall be mandatory for all elementary and high school students to undergo Environmental Education classes. Depending on a student's capacity for higher learning, Environmental Education classes shall include among others, lessons on the effects of greenhouse gases on the environment, lessons on the adverse effects of deforestation, lessons on proper waste disposal, and methods of attaining environmental sustainability.

Sec. 4. *Implementing Agency.* – The Department of Education, in consultation with stakeholders, shall ensure the implementation and enforcement of this Act. It shall also develop economic and personal course content guidelines and recommend textbooks to be used in an Environmental Education course.

Sec 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Education shall have the power to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the

objectives and purposes of this Act within one (1) year from the approval hereof.

Sec. 6. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 8. *Effectivity.* 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.