

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6473



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recently, news abounds of children getting food poisoned in school. Others helplessly drown during school-sanctioned outings. And there are many more incidents of children getting hurt in school. Either they scratch their legs or they break a bone while playing. Children at a young age are very active. They always tend to roam around, run through the school's corridors, jump from the stairs or climb trees. Children's physical activeness is part of growing and hence, parents cannot do anything about it other than worry.

First aid is a life skill that everyone can and should learn. Teaching children how to handle injuries cannot just prevent worsening of injuries, but it can also save lives.

But in the country's current educational set up, basic first aid skills are not part of schools' curriculum. First aid lessons are only available through independent seminars provided for by civil society groups. And mostly, the participants to these seminars are adults.

At present, if children find themselves in danger, their survival depends on knowing what steps to take. It is thus imperative that the State equips every Filipino child with the basic knowledge on first aid. At a young age and knowledgeable on first aid techniques, children will be more aware of the dangers surrounding them and as a consequence, they will be more mindful of their actions. More importantly, they will be able to take care of themselves instantly whenever they become injured.

Thus, this bill seeks to reform the country's education system by making First Aid Lessons a vital part of every school's curriculum. By teaching the youth about the value of health and safety as well as immediate medical action, the State can enable them to take care of themselves. In doing this, we begin raising a generation full of awareness on the importance of health and in turn, lessen incidents of injury and death.

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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House Bill No. ~~6473~~

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

**AN ACT TO ADVANCE THE PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING ON HEALTH
HAZARDS AMONG ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, TO ADD A
COURSE ON FIRST AID 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 "First Aid 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 First Aid Course.* It shall be mandatory for all elementary and high school students to undergo First Aid classes. Depending on a student's capacity for higher learning, First Aid classes shall include among others, detection of health hazards, lessons from treatment of wounds, injuries and skin burns to CPR and responding to choking/drowning incidents.

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 a First Aid 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.