

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

_____ Regular Session

House Bill No. 6499



Introduced by: **Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Environmental awareness and education must be inculcated in the youth to develop an earnest concern to our Mother Nature. Each one of us has a responsibility to preserve and protect the environment as stewards of creation. Young children in their early years of learning must know the essence of protecting the environment and its effects for the generations to come.

Although there are already various environmental laws passed there is still a need to strengthen the foundation of environmental awareness and education in the primary and secondary education aside from the current subjects which deal with related topics. There is a need for a special or additional subject which focuses particularly on the program of environmental awareness and education as well as training of the youth.

An educated public can be one of the most powerful weapons in the world's fight against damage to the environment. The ways that the public can assist in enforcement efforts are numerous if they are just fully aware of such means and can unite together in achieving their environmental goals.

It is embodied in the Constitution that the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

As such, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND TRAINING
IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

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 “**Environmental Awareness and Training Act of 2016**”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the declared policy of the State to recognize the role of the youth in nation building and advance the preservation and protection of the environment to have a balance and healthful ecology not only for the present but as well as for the future generations.

Education is stated to be an indispensable means of achieving environmental and ethical awareness, values and attitudes, skills and behaviour, consistent with sustainable development.

Environmental education programs as part of the school curriculum increase public environmental awareness and demonstrates a commitment to environmental protection. The involvement of today's youth in environment and development decision making and in the implementation of environmental programs are essential factors to effectively protect and preserve our environment.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall refer to and/or mean as hereunder defined:

Environmental protection is a practice of protecting the natural environment on individual, organizational, or governmental levels, for the benefit of both the natural environment and humans.

Environmental sustainability involves making responsible decisions and taking action that are in the interests of protecting the environment and reducing the negative impact and damage of abuse and pollution with

emphasis on preserving the capability of the environment to support human life.

Environmental education and awareness raising includes but are not limited to any of the following types of activities:

1. Reorienting current education and awareness programs to include environmental dimensions;
2. Basic education and awareness programs in schools; and
3. Education, training, and awareness programs.

Section 4. *Integration of Environmental Awareness and Training in School Curriculum.* The teaching of environmental awareness and training shall be included as a mandatory and integral part of the curriculum in the teaching of Science and Technology in all schools.

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* The Department of Education will promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.