

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

_____ Regular Session

House Bill No. 6504



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As the value of education must be embedded in the minds of the youth, this bill aims to maintain the standard of education by closely monitoring the attendance of primary and secondary students in public and private schools.

Studies show that there is a direct correlation between good attendance and student achievement. It goes without saying then, that a student needs to be present in school to benefit from the academic program in its entirety.

Among a number of factors, truancy has been named as one of the problems affecting the future of our youth. It is said that it is one of the indicator that a young person is giving up and losing motivation to attend school. Student absenteeism can lead to low academic achievement, school dropout, delinquency and gang involvement.

It is provided 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.

Although there has been efforts and laws made to secure the attendance of students in school there is still a need to hasten and improve the system to ensure that the stay of students would be worth the time and money spent for education in order to build a better and brighter tomorrow.

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


REP. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
Lone District, Bacolod City

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

_____ Regular Session
House Bill No. **6504**

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

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN ENHANCE PROGRAM TO COUNTER ABSENTEEISM
IN STUDENTS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL OF 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 "Student's School Attendance Monitoring 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. The youth of today must learn the value of education since it is the key to progress not only in their own personal life but in the society as well.

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

Absenteeism is the tendency to be away from school without a good reason; chronic or frequently recurring, amounting to long duration of absence.

Non-Attendance is the act of not being present.

Attendance is the actual school attendance of a student during the regular class day. If present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school in a regular school day.

Unexcused Absences mean missing a full or half day of school or being tardy or absent for 30 minutes or more without a valid excuse. Tardiness in any amount of minutes beyond the bell may result in loss of some eligibility for attendance incentive recognitions.

Unexcused Absences include but is not limited to:

1. Missing class or school without an excused or approved reason.

2. Absences for which advance approval is necessary and was not obtained before the absence.

Truancy is the unexcused chronic absence from school.

Truant means a student who misses school without permission.

Habitual Truant means a student who has been reported as truant on three or more occasions in the same school year; provided that the school has made a conscientious effort to hold at least one conference with the parent/guardian and pupil after filing the truancy reports.

Chronic Truant means a student who has been absent from school without a valid excuse for 10% or more of the school days in one school year, from the date of enrollment to the current date.

Excused Absences are absences with a valid and reasonable cause accompanied with proof. Some examples of such are the following:

- A. Emergencies which include: family member who is very ill and close to dying; student's home is lost to fire or eviction; natural disaster; a student whose family member needs to go to the hospital; or a family member's military deployment or return from deployment.
- B. Extraordinary Educational Opportunities it must be educational in nature, an opportunity not ordinarily available, the content and study must be highly relevant to the student.
- C. Injury or Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- D. Others as may be reasonable and similar to the above mentioned.

Section 4. Analysis. There shall be analysis of existing attendance reports in order to acquire a deeper understanding of chronic absence in students and to help schools understand impact of chronic absence.

To counter absenteeism, it is recommended that educators:

1. Promote health awareness and living a healthy lifestyle to avoid sickness which is considered as one of the frequent reasons of absences among students.

2. Maintain the classroom and school environment as a fun and enjoyable place to learn. Children spent most of their time at school as such it must be a place they would find comfortable and conducive for learning.

3. Inform parents about the benefit of keeping their children in school and the importance of encouraging their children to be diligent in their studies.

4. The parents shall be immediately informed when their child/children have reached the level absences at risk of being a chronic absentee.

5. Avoid terrorizing or scolding misbehaving pupils. Teaching them in a diplomatic manner would be better as much as possible.

6. Avoid discrimination or harsh comments which are beyond the proper bounds.

7. Assist students in the learning process for there are be fast learners while some may be slower than their classmates but they must be given the same opportunity to learn and cope up.

8. Motivate students to value education and avail the opportunity of being able to go to school for themselves, their family and country as well.

9. Provide for a stricter system to prevent students from skipping their classes.

10. Develop a program for attendance incentive and monitor the absences of student as well as the causes of such absences.

Section 5. *Mandatory Subjects.* The teaching of the value of education and the attendance awareness campaign or challenge shall be included as a mandatory and integral part of the curriculum in teaching in all schools.

Section 6. *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.

The attendance regulations require each board of education to develop, adopt and implement policies and procedures regarding the attendance of students, including the adoption of a definition of "unexcused absence," and the provision of mandated services for students with between one and nine cumulative unexcused absences and mandated to call the attention of their parents for those with ten or more cumulative unexcused absences.

Section 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.