

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5695



Introduced by Honorable Arthur R. Defensor, Jr and Honorable Victoria G. Noel

The objective of this bill entitled, "An Act establishing a Voter Education Program for Secondary Schools, and for Other Related Purposes" is to promote the effective exercise of the right of suffrage under Article V of the Philippine Constitution, which states:

"Section 1. Suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage."

This shall be achieved through voter education at the secondary level of our educational system, where through a *Secondary Schools Voter Education Program*, students or the youth are given the capability to make educated decisions in the exercise of the right to suffrage. This will educate secondary students who are either potential voters, or newly qualified voters, on how to vote intelligently for elective officials from the President down to elected barangay officials. The ultimate goal is an electorate, which is knowledgeable, and with a clear understanding of form of government, the nature and significance of the various elective positions, as well as, the qualifications and important aspects of political platforms and advocacies of candidates and political parties.

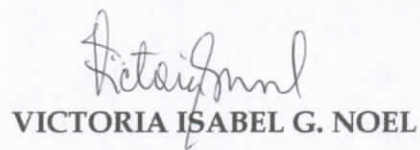
The centerpiece of the intended Act is the *Secondary Schools Voter Education Program* that shall be formulated by the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Elections (COMELEC), and administered by the former in all secondary schools

The total development of the youth plays a vital role in national development. It is achieved in part through their educated participation in the electoral system that starts with voter education at the secondary level of our educational system.

On the foregoing premises, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ARTHUR R. DEFENSOR, JR.



VICTORIA ISABEL G. NOEL

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A VOTER EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS,
AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Secondary Schools Voter Education
2 Act”.

3
4 Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the role of the youth in nation
5 building, and in the acceleration of social progress. In this regard, the State shall ensure
6 their total development for the fulfillment of such role, by providing voter education, that
7 shall ensure their effective participation in the electoral system.

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10 Section 3. *Objective.* – The objectives of this Act are the following:

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12 (a.) Institutionalize a voter education program to be implemented in all secondary
13 schools,
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15 (b.) To give the youth the capability for effective participation in the electoral
16 system, and
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18 (c.) To have an electorate that shall ensure meaningful elections and good
19 governance.

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21 Section 4. *Creation of the Voter Education Program.* – To attain the objectives of this Act,
22 there is hereby created the *Secondary Schools Voter Education Program* (SSVEP), that shall have
23 the following features:

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25 (a.) The SSVEP shall be administered by the Department of Education (DepEd) in
26 all secondary schools;
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30 (b.) The DepEd shall formulate and develop, in cooperation with the Commission
31 on Elections (COMELEC) and the Department of Interior and Local
32 Government (DILG), the SSVEP; and
33 (c.) The SSVEP shall serve as the basic education material for instruction on form
34 of government, procedure in elections, nature and significance of elective
35 positions, and qualifications and important aspects of political platforms and
36 advocacies of candidates and political parties.
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38 Section 5. *SSVEP Centers.* – There shall be a SSVEP Center in all secondary schools, to
39 be administered by the school administrator. The SSVEP Center shall function as the
40 resource center for the implementation of SSVEP.
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42 Section 6. *Implementing Guidelines.* – The DepEd shall, in coordination with the
43 COMELEC and DILG, promulgate and issue the necessary guidelines for the
44 implementation of this Act.
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46 Section 7. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the DepEd shall immediately include in
47 the DepEd program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included
48 in the Annual General Appropriations Act.
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50 Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
51 regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
52 amended accordingly.
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54 Section 9. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
55 publication in any newspaper of general circulation.
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57 Approved,