



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 534



Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Article XIV, Section 3, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution mandates that we include the teaching of the Constitution in our educational institutions' curricula.

This bill was crafted precisely for that purpose by mandating the integration of a constitutional education course or program in our secondary educational system.

This bill seeks to educate our Filipino youth on the fundamental law of the land to accomplish the following:

- a. Raise the level of awareness and understanding of our Filipino youth of the history and provisions of the 1987 Constitution as well as their rights and duties as a Filipino citizen;
- b. Develop their appreciation and exercise of democratic values, such as transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights and dignity;
- c. Foster their understanding and practice of active citizenship and people's participation in government processes;
- d. Equip them with the knowledge of the Constitution that they can use in their analysis and involvement in public issues;
- e. Develop their understanding of the different government branches, institutions, processes, and constitutional commissions;

- f. Promote the role of government in society and respect for institutions and the rule of law;
- g. Equip them with the proper skill and knowledge to discern useful socio-political news and information from false ones in this age of technology; and
- h. Promote a more meaningful and effective civic engagement.

This bill mandates all public and private schools to teach a Constitutional Education course or program at the Grade 10 level (age 16). Grade 10 is the ideal level as students are not yet preoccupied with college applications. In addition, not all students are able to progress to Senior High School level with poverty as the prevalent cause. Further, in terms of cognitive ability, research shows that at age 16, teens are developing the “ability to think abstractly, deal with several concepts at the same time, and imagine the future consequences of their actions. They learn to process more complex problems, to develop and test theories, to understand analogies, to reason inductively and deductively, and to think inferentially. They are better able to handle a more demanding high school curriculum because their memory and organizational abilities—such as time management, test preparation, and study skills—improve. Written and spoken language become more and more sophisticated. They may also begin to grasp political, moral, social, and philosophical concepts.”¹

Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



GERALDINE B. ROMAN

¹Cognitive Development, Ages 15 to 18 Years, *available at* <https://www.mottchildren.org/health-library/te7285>(last accessed July 28, 2020)



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Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

AN ACT
INTEGRATING THE TEACHING OF THE 1987 PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION
IN THE SECONDARY EDUCATION CURRICULUM
OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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 “Mandatory Constitutional Education Act of 2020”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – Article XIV, Section 3(1) of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines states that all educational institutions include the study of the Constitution as part of the curriculum.

Moreover, Article XIV, Section 3(2) of the Constitution also states that educational institutions shall “inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency.”

Sec.3. Development of Constitutional Education Course or Program (CECP). – The Department of Education (DepEd), in collaboration with the Philippine Supreme Court, Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP), and the legal academe, will develop the CECP that will be integrated in the secondary education curriculum in all public and private educational institutions and taught at the Grade 10 level. In this regard, the Supreme Court and the IBP will collaboratively encourage lawyers to participate *pro bono* in teaching or conducting the CECP.

The CECP shall be developed in a way that is suited and responsive to the capacity of students and in accordance with the standards and principles to be followed in developing the enhanced basic education curriculum under Republic Act No. 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013,² which provides in particular the following:

“SEC 4. Enhanced Basic Education Program. – x x x

Basic education shall be delivered in languages understood by the learners as the language plays a strategic role in shaping the formative years of learners.

x xx

For purposes of this Act, mother language or first Language (LI) refers to language or languages first learned by a child, which he/she identifies with, is identified as a native language user of by others, which he/she knows best, or uses most. This includes Filipino sign language used by individuals with pertinent disabilities. The regional or native language refers to the traditional speech variety or variety of Filipino sign language existing in a region, area or place.

SEC 5. Curriculum Development. –x x x

The DepED shall adhere to the following standards and principles in developing the enhanced basic education curriculum:

- (a) The curriculum shall be learner-centered, inclusive and developmentally appropriate;
- (b) The curriculum shall be relevant, responsive and research-based;
- (c) The curriculum shall be culture-sensitive;
- (d) The curriculum shall be contextualized and global;
- (e) The curriculum shall use pedagogical approaches that are constructivist, inquiry-based, reflective, collaborative and integrative;
- (f) The curriculum shall adhere to the principles and framework of Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) which starts from where the learners are and from what they already knew proceeding from the known to the unknown; instructional materials and capable teachers to implement the MTB-MLE curriculum shall be available;
- (g) The curriculum shall use the spiral progression approach to ensure mastery of knowledge and skills after each level; and

² An Act Enhancing the Philippine Basic Education System by Strengthening its Curriculum and Increasing the number of Years for Basic Education, Appropriating Funds therefor and for other purposes [ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013], Act No. 10533, sec. 4-5 (2013).

(h) The curriculum shall be flexible enough to enable and allow schools to localize, indigenize and enhance the same based on their respective educational and social contexts. The production and development of locally produced teaching materials shall be encouraged and approval of these materials shall devolve to the regional and division education units.

Sec.4. CECF Objectives. – The CECF for secondary school students shall seek to accomplish the following:

- a. Raise their level of awareness and understanding of the history and provisions of the 1987 Constitution as well as their rights and duties as a Filipino citizen;
- b. Develop their appreciation and exercise of democratic values, such as transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights and dignity;
- c. Foster their understanding and practice of active citizenship and people's participation in government processes;
- d. Equip them with the knowledge of the Constitution that they can use in their analysis and involvement in public issues;
- e. Develop their understanding of the different government branches, institutions, processes, and constitutional commissions;
- f. Promote the role of government in society and respect for institutions and the rule of law;
- g. Equip them with the proper skill and knowledge to discern useful socio-political news and information from harmful ones in this age of technology; and
- h. Promote a more meaningful and effective civic engagement.

Sec.5. CECF Framework. – The CECF in the secondary education curriculum will cover topics including but not limited to, the following:

- a. History and Overview of the 1987 Constitution
- b. Nationalism and Sovereignty
- c. The National Territory
- d. State Principles and Policies
- e. National Economy and Patrimony
- f. Government Branches, Institutions, and Processes
- g. Rights and Duties of Citizens
- h. Citizenship and Suffrage

- i. Democratic Values, Social Justice, and Human Rights
- j. Active Citizenship and People's Participation in Governance
- k. Education, Science and Technology, Arts, Culture, and Sports
- l. The Family
- m. Constitutional Commissions and Local Government
- n. Accountability of Public Officers
- o. General Provisions and Amendments or Revisions
- p. Relevant jurisprudence

Sec.6. Teacher Education and Training. – The DepEd, Philippine Supreme Court, IBP, and legal academe will collaboratively develop a program to educate and train teachers who will teach or conduct the CECP. The CECP shall form part of the teacher education and training programs required by Republic Act No. 10533.

Sec.7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DepEd, in collaboration with the Philippine Supreme Court, IBP, and legal academe, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the Act within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act.

Sec.8. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any part, section, or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions is not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec.9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamation, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.