

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5202**



Introduced by **Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers**

AN ACT
INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
EDUCATION, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND POPULATION EDUCATION, AND DRUG
PREVENTION EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM OF ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is often said that youth is the hope of our country. Their passions, dreams, motivation and determination can make a difference in building a nation. However, youth of today faces many risks and challenges, including drug addiction and teenage pregnancy. Thus, they need proper guidance and direction to ensure that they are still on the right path in becoming a responsible adult.

Under this bill, the Department of Education (DepEd) is mandated to include in the curriculum of elementary and high school a course on Environmental Protection, Entrepreneurship Education, Reproductive Health and Population Education, and Drug Prevention Education to develop positive mindsets among the youth.

Discussion of these programs or courses paired with broader and more comprehensive instruction as early as childhood can help prepare youth to reach intellectual and emotional maturity leading to a responsible and healthy life decisions. Early intervention has a life altering impact on changing a child's life path away from problems and toward positive behaviors.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

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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 “*Responsible Youth Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation building and to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

SEC. 3. *Mandatory Education.* – All public and private elementary and high schools shall integrate in their curriculum the following courses or programs:

- a. Environmental Protection Education;
- b. Entrepreneurship Education;
- c. Reproductive Health and Population Education; and
- d. Drug Prevention Education

SEC. 4. *Course Education.* – The Department of Education in consultation with the appropriate government agencies shall be charged to develop the content of the course or teaching modules for the purpose of this Act. Such content shall be age-appropriate. The content may include, but not limited to:

For Environmental Protection Education – Awareness, Sensitivity and Knowledge to the Environment, Climate Change, and Environmental Challenges and Participation in Activities to Improve or Maintain our Environment.

For Entrepreneurship Education – Entrepreneurship Awareness, Business Creation, Small Business Development, and Socio-economic Development;

For Reproductive Health and Population Education – Human Sexuality, Human Development, Contraceptives, Teenage Pregnancy, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases;

For Drug Prevention Education – Penal Statutes, Causes and Effects of Illegal or Dangerous Drugs, Youth Awareness on Illegal or Dangerous Drugs, Drug Prevention and Awareness, Testimonies of Former Addicts, Exposure Trips to Secured Facilities for Addicts;

Age-appropriate shall mean topics, messages and teaching methods that are suitable to particular age and developmental levels based on the cognitive, emotional, social and experience levels of most students at that level;

SEC. 5. *Responsibility of Department of Education.* – The Department of Education shall provide measures and adopt additional changes or adjustment in the elementary and high school curriculum in order to integrate the environmental protection education, entrepreneurship education, reproductive health and population education, and drug prevention education within six months from approval of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Teachers Trainings.* – The Department of Education shall provide free trainings to teachers and staff in order that they may be capacitated to incorporate a reality framework in teaching the students. The training may be credited to their Continuing Professional Education (CPE) units required for professional license renewal.

SEC. 7. *Evaluation.* – The Department of Education shall conduct an evaluation once every two years to analyze the effectiveness and efficacy of the program and shall submit a report concerning the results of the evaluation to the appropriate committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8. *Funding.* – The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the general appropriations act of the Department of Education.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, issuances, circulars, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – The Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.