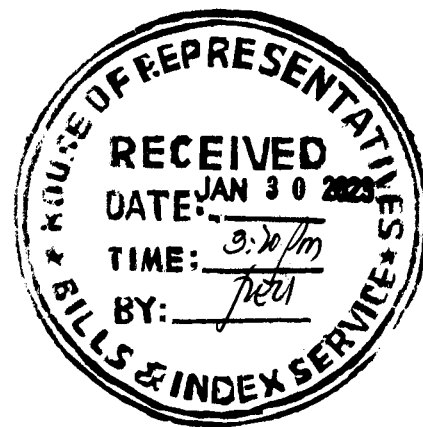


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6971



Introduced by Representative CHING B. BERNOS

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 11313 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
SAFE SPACES ACT PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR GENDER-BASED
SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING
INSTITUTIONS AND THE WORKPLACE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 7877 otherwise known as the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 was enacted to protect both women and men from unlawful sexual harassment. Twenty-three years after its passing, Republic Act 11313, also known as Safe Spaces Act, was enacted into law.

The Safe Spaces Act offers a more comprehensive scope as opposed to the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act. It expanded the definition of sexual harassment perpetrated in Educational and Training Institutions, to include offenders or any person who has authority, influence, or moral ascendancy over another. Moreover, the Safe Spaces Act broadens the coverage of sexual harassment committed in the workplace to include those committed by peers, subordinates, students, and trainees.

However, the imposable penalty available for Gender-Based Sexual Harassment in Educational and Training Institutions and Workplaces found in Anti-Sexual Harassment Act and Safe Spaces Act have an insignificant amount. Considering the gravity and impact of sexual harassment on the victims, the imposable penalty should be greater than that provided for Gender-Based Online Sexual Harassment in the Safe Spaces Act, and considerably larger than that provided in the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act.

Hence, the Safe Spaces Act should be amended to further provide appropriate penalties for violators. These additional penal provisions shall encompass the expanded definition provided by the Safe Spaces Act.

In light of the foregoing reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. CHING B. BERNOS
Lone District of Abra

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

1 SECTION. 1. A new section denominated as Section 20-A is hereby inserted
2 after Section 20 of the Republic Act 11313 otherwise known as Safe Spaces Act, to read
3 as follows:

4 “Section 20-A. *Penalties for Gender-Based Sexual Harassment in the*
5 *Workplace.* - The penalty of prision correccional in its maximum period or a
6 fine of not less than two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) but not
7 more than five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), or both, at the
8 discretion of the court shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of any
9 gender-based sexual harassment under this Article.

10 If the perpetrator is the head of the workplace or organization, his or her
11 appointment shall be automatically deemed revoked upon conviction. An alien
12 who commits gender-based sexual harassment in the workplace shall be subject
13 to deportation proceedings after serving sentence and payment of fines.”

14 SECTION. 2. A new section denominated as Section 26-A is hereby inserted
15 after Section 26 of the same Act, to read as follows:

1 “Section 26-A. Penalties for Gender-Based Sexual Harassment in
2 Education of Training Institutions. - The penalty of prision correccional in its
3 maximum period or a fine of not less than two hundred fifty thousand pesos
4 (P250,000.00) but not more than five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00),
5 or both, at the discretion of the court shall be imposed upon any person found
6 guilty of any gender-based sexual harassment under this Article.

7 If the perpetrator is the head of the school or organization, his or her
8 appointment shall be automatically deemed revoked upon conviction. An alien
9 who commits gender-based sexual harassment in an education or training
10 institution shall be subject to deportation proceedings after serving sentence
11 and payment of fines.”

12 SECTION. 3. ***Separability Clause.*** Should any provision of this Act or any
13 part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, insofar as they are separable
14 from the invalid one, shall remain in full force and effect.

15 SECTION. 4. ***Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, and
16 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
17 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 SECTION. 5. ***Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

20
21 Approved,