

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9054



Introduced by Rep. Ray T. Reyes

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to integrate good conduct and ethical standards of public officials and employees in the basic education curriculum.

Education plays a vital role in equipping our youth with knowledge and skills. Section 3 (2), Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that all 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 the vocational efficiency."*

But while sharpening their aptitudes and talents, the education of these young minds should be melded with the strengthening and ingraining of ethical behavior, moral character, honesty, and fairness as human core values.

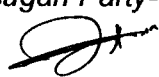
The dearth of strong moral foundation, aggravated by the lapses and loopholes in our laws and regulations, breeds corruption. This sad fact is reflected in the 2022 Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index which ranked the Philippines at 116th in the assessment of perceived levels of public sector corruption among 180 countries and territories globally.

Preventing corruption is a crucial goal for any established government aiming to foster transparency, accountability, and sustainable development. In order to raise the awareness of our youth on the detrimental effects of corruption, it is high time to equip our students with the necessary knowledge, skills, and values to resist and combat corruption.

Nothing less than the intensive absorption of ethical values, through the integration of anti-graft and corruption modules into the curricula of basic educational

system can stem the continuing dominance of the culture of corruption in the Philippines today.

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


RAY REYES
Representative, Anakalusugan Party-list


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AN ACT
INTEGRATING GOOD CONDUCT AND ETHICAL STANDARDS OF PUBLIC
OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE BASIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “***Anti-Graft and Corruption Education Act.***”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Educational institutions are mandated by the State to inculcate patriotism and nationalism, respect for human rights, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, and develop moral character and personal discipline.

Towards this end, the State shall integrate in the basic education curricula, learning modules on the code of conduct and ethical standards of public officials and employees and the acts punishable as corrupt practices in order to raise awareness, promote ethical behavior, and equip the youth with the necessary knowledge, skills, and values to resist and combat corruption, and develop a generation of a responsible, ethical, and accountable citizenry.

SECTION 3. *Role of the Department of Education.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall, in coordination with the Office of the Ombudsman, conceptualize and develop modules of instructions relating to the concept, effects, and prevention of graft and corruption for integration in the curricula of basic education.

SECTION 4. *Coverage.* – The modules of instruction shall include the following:

- a) Republic Act (RA) No. 6713, or the “*Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees*” that centers on the norms for the

government officials and employees on the commitment to public interest; professionalism; justness and sincerity; political neutrality; responsiveness to public; nationalism and patriotism; commitment to democracy; and simple living;

- b) Republic Act No. 3019, or the *“Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act”* that tackles the corrupt practices of public officers; prohibitions on private individuals, certain relatives by consanguinity or affinity, and Members of Congress; sworn statement of assets and liabilities; and the amount of income taxes paid by the taxpayers;
- c) Functional and structural organization of the Office of the Ombudsman, created under Republic Act No. 6770, otherwise known as the *“Ombudsman Act of 1989”*, and its role in protecting the people from illegal, unjust, improper or inefficient act of any public official, employee, office or agency;
- d) Rules and regulations promulgated by the Civil Service Commission regarding disciplinary actions; and
- e) School activities that include poster-making, essay-writing, seminars, workshops and other academic endeavors towards the implementation of the integrity, transparency, and accountability programs spearheaded by the National Integrity Center of the Office of the Ombudsman.

SECTION 5. *Revision and Updating of Modules.* – The content, coverage, and age-sustainability of the modules on the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards of Public Officials and Employees, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and other related laws approved for use in basic education shall be included in the comprehensive curriculum review conducted by the DepEd, or every two (2) years, whichever is earlier, to keep up with the advancement in technology, recent developments, and amendments to existing legislation.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd shall, in consultation with the relevant government agencies and stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the DepEd. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions which are not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,