

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10646**



**Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
Hon. Eduardo “Bro. Eddie” C. Villanueva**

This measure seeks to address the urgent need for environmental awareness and sustainable practices among the youth in the Philippines. As the country faces increasing environmental challenges such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution, it is crucial to equip the younger generation with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to protect and preserve our natural resources. This bill mandates the integration of comprehensive environmental education into the curricula of all primary, secondary, and tertiary education institutions, ensuring that students are well-informed about environmental issues and are prepared to engage in sustainable practices.

The bill emphasizes the importance of teacher training and capacity building to effectively deliver environmental education. By providing regular training programs and workshops for educators, the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) aim to enhance the competency of teachers in this vital area. Additionally, the inclusion of environmental education in teacher education programs will ensure that future educators are also well-equipped to impart this critical knowledge. This focus on teacher training will help create a robust and effective environmental education framework within the Philippine education system.

Furthermore, the bill encourages schools to establish partnerships with local government units, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities to enhance the delivery of environmental education. By involving the community in environmental projects and activities, students will have the opportunity to apply their classroom learning in practical ways, fostering a deeper understanding and commitment to environmental stewardship. The Eco-Education Act of 2024 is a proactive step towards creating a generation of environmentally conscious citizens who are capable of making informed decisions and taking meaningful actions to ensure a sustainable future for the Philippines.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. C. Villanueva".

HON. EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

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**AN ACT
MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN
SCHOOL CURRICULA TO FOSTER SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES FROM A
YOUNG AGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*Eco-Education Act of 2024.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. The State recognizes the critical role of education in instilling environmental consciousness and promoting sustainable practices among the youth.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* - This Act aims to:

- (a) Integrate environmental education into the curricula of all primary, secondary, and tertiary schools in the Philippines.
- (b) Foster awareness and understanding of environmental issues and the importance of sustainable development.
- (c) Equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to engage in environmental protection and sustainable practices.
- (d) Encourage community involvement and action towards environmental sustainability.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) **Environmental Education** - The process of recognizing values and clarifying concepts in order to develop skills and attitudes necessary to understand and appreciate the interrelationships among man, his culture, and his biophysical surroundings. This includes the practice of decision-making and self-formulation of a code of behavior about issues concerning environmental quality.
- (b) **Sustainable Practices** - Actions and strategies that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

SEC. 5. *Integration into Curriculum.*

(a) The Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall develop and integrate comprehensive environmental education into the curricula of all primary, secondary, and tertiary education institutions.

(b) The curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, topics on:

1. Environmental science and ecology
2. Climate change and its impacts
3. Conservation of natural resources
4. Waste management and reduction
5. Renewable energy and energy efficiency
6. Sustainable agriculture and food security
7. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection
8. Environmental laws and policies

SEC. 6. *Teacher Training and Capacity Building.*

(a) DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall conduct regular training programs and workshops for educators to effectively deliver environmental education.

(b) Teacher education institutions shall include environmental education in their pre-service and in-service training programs.

SEC. 7. *Community Involvement and Partnerships.*

(a) Schools are encouraged to establish partnerships with local government units, non-governmental organizations, and private sector entities to enhance the delivery of environmental education.

(b) Schools shall undertake community-based environmental projects and activities to foster practical application of classroom learning.

SEC. 8. *Monitoring and Evaluation.*

(a) DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall develop a system for monitoring and evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of environmental education programs.

(b) Annual reports on the status and progress of the programs shall be submitted to Congress.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.