

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10676



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Partylist Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

During the 2023 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections, 21, 420, 554 of the 67, 839, 861 million registered voters were from the age range of 18-30 years old.¹ It is undeniable that the youth voters play a huge role as the prime movers in elections with how much impact they can make in their participation.

In spite of this, the youth's knowledge on voting is mostly from their exposure to informal processed information in social media and their immediate community. The lack of access to formal voter education and the absence of an institutionalized formal and systemic intervention results in youth voters ill-prepared for the elections. In order to strengthen our democratic nation, voters must have a deep understanding of their right to suffrage and the impact of their participation in political processes.

As a member of a democratic and republican nation, citizens must be aware of their rights as voters, their responsibility and obligation to participate in the elections, and their remedies in the event of disenfranchisement. The education system should therefore introduce to the youth the salience of getting involved in public affairs by exercising their right to suffrage. They should also be familiar with the electoral system and its processes to be aware of the practical matters in elections. Finally, the youth should also be guided to become informed voters to have the correct attitude and behavior in exercising their political rights. There is therefore a need to integrate voter

¹ Commission on Elections, Number of Registered Voters by Age Group and by Sex October 30, 2023 Barangay Elections available at https://comelec.gov.ph/php-tpls-attachments/2023BSKE/2023BSKEPreElectionData/1029_RegBrgy.pdf

education in the formal education system to prepare the next generation of voters for their key roles in the elections.

The instant bill seeks to integrate non-partisan voter education into the junior and senior high school curriculum; prepare teachers for educating the youth on voter education; and provide educational materials on voting by obliging schools offering secondary education to keep literature on voter's education in their libraries.

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


ALFRED DELOS SANTOS

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**AN ACT INTEGRATING VOTER'S EDUCATION IN THE JUNIOR AND
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
SCHOOLS**

*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 "Voter's Education Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State acknowledges that sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them. The State recognizes the vital role of the Filipino youth in nation building and shall inculcate in them patriotism, nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. The State likewise gives priority to education that fosters development, patriotism, and nationalism by teaching the youth the value of public participation and the exercise of their political right to suffrage.

SECTION 3. Voter Education Curriculum. - Non-partisan Voter Education shall be integrated by the Department of Education (DepEd) into the junior and senior high school curriculum as part of the core subjects, effective at the start of the school year immediately following one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. The Voter Education Curriculum shall include the following topics:

- a. *Voter Education.* - Voter Education shall have the following thematic

areas:

- i. **Suffrage.** - This area introduces to students the right to vote accorded by the Constitution, and other rights enabling the citizens to participate in the conduct of public affairs. It shall discuss the importance of the right to suffrage and the sanctity of the ballot.
 - ii. **Electoral System and Process** - This area deals with the general principles underlying the present electoral system, and legislation regulating all the phases of the election, namely: pre-election, election proper, and post-election. It discusses the proper conduct of elections including, but not limited to, registration, ensuring the inclusion in the voter list, what type of elections are being held, the casting of ballots, counting of votes, and remedies related to the violation of the right to suffrage.
 - iii. **Informed Voting** - This area focuses on the attitude and behavior that a voter must adopt to ensure fair, free, and honest elections. It emphasizes the importance of participating in elections in a manner that shall stimulate and strengthen democracy. It shall include such topics as the factors in evaluating and choosing candidates, the positions being voted on, and relevant election offenses.
- b. *Supplementary Topics.* - This curriculum should have additional topics and studies on the political system of the country, the contextual background of elections, current political, social, and economic issues affecting the elections and the possible solutions to address them, good governance and public participation, personal and civic responsibility, and values formation.

SECTION 4. *Development of the Voter Education Curriculum.* – The DepEd, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall formulate the Voter's Education curriculum. Such curriculum shall be common to both public and private schools, and enrollees in the Alternative Learning System (ALS).

SECTION 5. *Certification of Teachers.* – The COMELEC shall assist DepEd in preparing teachers during the one-year transition period by conducting seminars and training on the electoral system and process. The COMELEC shall ensure that the teachers shall remain non-partisan in teaching voter's

education. The COMELEC shall certify teachers qualified to teach topics under the voter education curriculum.

SECTION 6. *Educational Materials.* – It shall be obligatory for all schools offering secondary education to keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the textbooks, primers, and leaflets on voter education to be issued by the DepEd. The DepEd shall determine the adequacy of the number of books, depending upon the enrollment of the school.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Agency.* – The Secretary of Education is hereby authorized and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out effectively the provisions of this Act. The Secretary of Education shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations, including those of a disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act, including but not limited to the development of the Voter's Education Curriculum, training, and deployment of teachers, and transportation of Vote Counting Machines (VCM) shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the implementing agencies under the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,