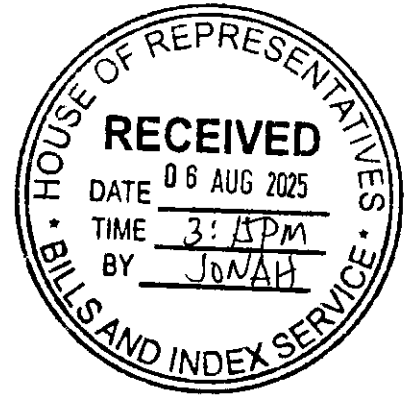


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Diliman, Quezon City

**20<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3259



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Introduced by: **HON. MARK ANTHONY G. SANTOS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution* clearly states, "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall 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."

This proposed "Local Youth Development Center Act" aims to fulfill this constitutional mandate by establishing a Youth Development Center in every city and municipality in the Philippines. This initiative aligns with Republic Act No. 10742 (Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015) and the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) 2023-2028 of the National Youth Commission (NYC).

The PYDP 2023-2028 identifies key "Centers of Youth Participation" such as Health, Education, Economic Empowerment, Social Inclusion, Peacebuilding, Governance, Active Citizenship, Environment, Global Mobility, and Agriculture. Youth Development Centers will directly support these areas by providing accessible physical spaces for youth programs and services.

Specifically, this bill will institutionalize Local Youth Development by providing a permanent infrastructure to be attached to the National Youth Commission (NYC) under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to operate effectively on a national scale. It also aims to foster holistic development

by offering diverse services, including capacity building, health support, educational assistance, and civic engagement platforms.

Additionally, this bill endeavors to enhance youth participation to create spaces for youth dialogues and active involvement in local governance and community development.

This initiative is a crucial step towards creating a supportive environment for Filipino youth, empowering them to become productive and patriotic citizens vital to national progress for all Filipinos.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical stroke.

**MARK ANTHONY G. SANTOS**  
Representative, Lone District of Las Piñas

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Diliman, Quezon City

**20<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**  
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Introduced by: **HON. MARK ANTHONY G. SANTOS**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, PROVIDING FOR THEIR FUNCTIONS, ADMINISTRATION, AND FUNDING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. *Title.*** — This Act shall be known as the "*Local Youth Development Center Act.*"

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** — It is hereby declared 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. The State shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs, as enshrined in Section 13, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

This Act aims to further institutionalize and strengthen youth participation at the local level by establishing dedicated physical spaces that serve as hubs for youth development programs, services, and activities

**SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** — The following terms, as used herein, shall mean:

1. **Youth** - persons whose ages range from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years old, as defined in Republic Act No. 8044.
2. **Youth Development Center** - a dedicated physical facility established in every city and municipality that serves as a multi-functional hub for the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of youth development programs, projects, and activities, and as a venue for youth engagement, recreation, and access to relevant information and services.
3. **Local Government Unit (LGU)** - refers to the provincial, city, and municipal governments of the Philippines.
4. **Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP)** - the national framework for youth development formulated by the National Youth Commission (NYC), providing policy direction for the development of Filipino youth, currently covering the period 2023-2028.
5. **Sangguniang Kabataan (SK)** - also known as the youth council is the governing body of the youth assembly or Katipunan ng Kabataan of every barangay. They are elected by the members of, the Katipunan ng Kabataan in elections conducted by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

**SECTION 4. Establishment of Youth Development Centers.** — There shall be a Youth Development Center established in every city and municipality in the Philippines. The Youth Development Centers shall be located and designed in such a way to be accessible to all youth within the LGU's jurisdiction, including out-of-school youth, youth with disabilities, indigenous youth, and other marginalized youth groups. These Youth Development Centers shall be attached to the National Youth Commission (NYC) under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

**SECTION 5. Functions and Services of the Youth Development Center.** — The Youth Development Center shall serve as a central hub for youth-related activities and shall provide, but shall not be limited to, the following functions and services, aligned with the Centers of Youth Participation identified in the PYDP 2023-2028:

1. **Capacity Building and Training Venue** - Serve as a venue for workshops, seminars, and training programs aimed at enhancing the skills and competencies of youth, including leadership development, life skills, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, financial literacy,

peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), and agricultural development.

2. ***Youth Engagement and Participation Space*** - Facilitate platforms for youth dialogues, forums, consultations, and meetings of youth organizations (including SK and LYDC) to encourage active participation in local governance, policy formulation, and community development. It shall promote volunteerism and civic projects.
3. ***Health and Wellness Support*** - Provide information and referral services for youth health concerns, including mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and substance abuse prevention. It shall promote healthy lifestyles and physical activities.
4. ***Economic Empowerment Initiatives*** - Host programs and activities that promote youth entrepreneurship, livelihood skills training, job-skills matching, and access to employment facilitation services.
5. ***Social Inclusion, Gender, and Equity Programs*** - Serve as a safe and inclusive space for all youth, promoting awareness and advocacy against discrimination, abuse, and exploitation based on gender, ethnicity, disability, and other factors. It shall support programs for vulnerable youth groups.

**SECTION 6. *Administration and Management.*** — The Youth Development Center shall be under the direct supervision and management of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) of the respective city or municipality.

Youth organizations and youth volunteers shall be actively involved in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of Youth Development Center programs and activities, fostering a youth-led and youth-driven environment.

**SECTION 7. *Funding*** — The initial funding for the establishment and operationalization of Youth Development Centers shall be provided through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) under the budget for the National Youth Commission (NYC).

**SECTION 8. *Monitoring and Evaluation*** — The National Youth Commission (NYC), in coordination with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), relevant government agencies, and the respective LGUs, shall develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework. This framework shall include clear performance indicators, data collection mechanisms, and reporting requirements to assess the effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of the Youth Development Centers in achieving their objectives and contributing to the PYDP. Annual reports on the Youth Development Centers' performance shall be

submitted to the National Youth Commission (NYC) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

**SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Youth Commission (NYC), as the lead implementing agency in consultation with the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), relevant government agencies, relevant youth-serving organizations, and LGUs, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 12. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.