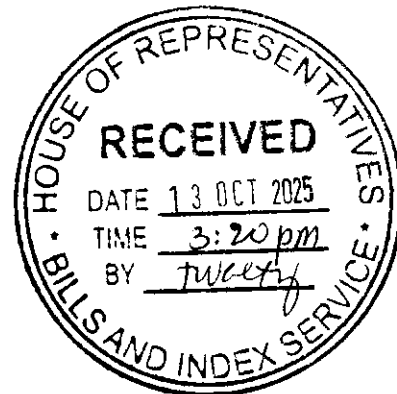




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5530



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

AN ACT
INTEGRATING VOTER EDUCATION INTO THE K TO 12 CURRICULUM,
REINFORCING IT AS A FORMAL SUBJECT IN JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL PROGRAMS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND
REQUIRING ITS INTEGRATION INTO FILIPINO SCHOOLS ABROAD, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Voting, enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, is a right that shapes our nation's future. Its significance depends on informed, responsible participation, but first-time and young voters face challenges from apathy, misinformation, and low civic awareness.

The 2025 midterm elections highlight the urgency of civic education. Nearly 70 million are registered, over 55 million voted, an 81.65% turnout. While engagement is high among the 112 million population, participation must be informed and principled.

Educating young people on rights, the electoral process, platform analysis, and spotting disinformation is vital for democracy. An informed electorate holds leaders accountable. This bill calls for Voter Education in the K to 12 program through structured lessons, mock elections, and critical analysis.

We must also address Filipino citizens living overseas and their unique voting context. In 2025, about 1.24 million overseas voters were registered, but only 18.12% cast their votes online, indicating significant barriers to participation for Filipinos abroad. Meanwhile, 32 Philippine Schools Overseas, spread across 10 countries, serve approximately 25,000 students who continue their education under the Philippine curriculum.

These figures highlight distinct circumstances overseas: while many Filipinos abroad are eligible and registered to vote, participation rates remain low due to unique challenges such as distance, differing voting platforms, and engagement barriers. Furthermore, overseas students following the Philippine curriculum represent an audience with strong ties to the homeland. Integrating voter education in these overseas schools will equip

young Filipinos with the tools and knowledge to participate actively and meaningfully in Philippine democracy, regardless of their location.

Act now to empower our youth, both locally and globally, with the knowledge and responsibility to vote wisely. This proposed bill shall prioritize securing a participatory, well-informed society and ensure the Philippines' future rests on wise choices and principled leadership for generations.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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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 "Voter Education Integration Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold and protect the democratic rights of all Filipinos, including the right to suffrage. The government recognizes the need to instill the values of responsible citizenship and democratic participation among the youth, ensuring that every eligible Filipino voter is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for informed, meaningful, and responsible participation in electoral processes.

SECTION 3. Integration into the K to 12 Curriculum. - The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and relevant civil society organizations and academic institutions, shall integrate voter education into the K to 12 curriculum, with particular emphasis on the Junior High School and Senior High School levels.

SECTION 4. Creation of a Standalone Subject. - A dedicated subject entitled "Voter Education and Democratic Citizenship" shall be developed and implemented as part of the core curriculum in Grade 10 and/or Senior High School levels. The subject shall include, but not be limited to:

1. The right of suffrage under the Philippine Constitution;
2. History and importance of voting and democratic participation;
3. The electoral process and the role of COMELEC;
4. Duties and responsibilities of voters;

- 1 5. Critical thinking and analysis of political platforms, propaganda, and fake news;
- 2 6. The role of youth in nation-building;
- 3 7. The significance of clean, honest, and peaceful elections;
- 4 8. Simulated voting activities and mock elections.

5 **SECTION 5. *Curriculum Development.*** - DepEd shall, within one (1) year from the
6 effectivity of this Act, develop and issue the appropriate curriculum guides, learning
7 competencies, instructional materials, and teacher training programs necessary for the
8 implementation of this Act. In doing so, DepEd shall consult with COMELEC, education
9 experts, political scientists, civic education advocates, and youth organizations.

10 **SECTION 6. *Teacher Training and Capacity Building.*** - The Department of Education
11 shall conduct capacity-building activities one (1) year before the scheduled election set forth by
12 the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to equip teachers with the necessary competencies
13 to deliver voter education effectively. The Department of Justice (DOJ) shall annually conduct
14 regular teacher training programs and workshops in partnership with DepEd and COMELEC,
15 focusing on the legal foundations of suffrage, election laws, and the rights and responsibilities
16 of voters. A dedicated budget shall be allocated for the development, training, and support of
17 educators implementing this program.

18 **SECTION 7. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
19 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Education,
20 COMELEC, DOJ, DFA, and other concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed
21 for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

22 **SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is
23 held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

24 **SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations
25 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

26 **SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

28 *Approved,*