

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5611



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Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The out-of-school youth (OSY) sector represents a significant portion of the nation's young population. Defined primarily as individuals aged 15 to 30 who are not attending formal school, are not employed, and are not undergoing any type of formal training, this group often faces multifaceted challenges, including poverty, lack of marketable skills, limited access to formal education, and vulnerability to social ills. Leaving this substantial human capital underdeveloped poses a long-term risk to national progress and economic stability.

Currently, various government agencies implement programs addressing the needs of the OSY, but these efforts often lack a cohesive, comprehensive, and rights-based framework. There is a need for a singular, integrated policy that clearly defines the rights of the OSY and mandates a whole-of-government approach to their empowerment and reintegration into the mainstream of society.

This bill, to be known as the "Magna Carta of the Out-of-School Youth," seeks to recognize the OSY not as a problem but as a potential catalyst for national development. It establishes their fundamental rights to education, employment, health, participation, and protection from all forms of exploitation. It mandates the creation of an integrated National OSY Development Program (NOSYDP) and institutionalizes the coordination among the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Local Government Units (LGUs).

By providing a clear set of entitlements and corresponding governmental responsibilities, this measure aims to unlock the potential of the out-of-school youth, transforming them into skilled, productive, and participatory members of the community, thereby contributing significantly to nation-building.

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



**SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH, INSTITUTING MECHANISMS FOR THEIR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT, 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 “Magna Carta of the Out-of-School Youth (OSY).”

**SEC. 2.** Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of the youth, and to recognize the vital role of the out-of-school youth in nation-building. The State shall, therefore, establish a comprehensive, rights-based, and integrated framework that ensures their access to opportunities for education, employment, health, and active civic participation, thereby facilitating their holistic development and reintegration into the mainstream society.

**SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

- a. Out-of-School Youth (OSY) refers to persons whose age ranges from fifteen (15) to thirty (30) years who are not attending formal school, are not employed, and are not undergoing any type of formal or non-formal training.
- b. Holistic Development refers to the simultaneous and integrated growth of the OSY in all aspects: physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social.
- c. OSY Registry refers to the comprehensive and centralized database of all OSY maintained by the Local Government Units.

**SEC. 4.** *Fundamental Rights of the Out-of-School Youth.* The OSY shall be entitled to the following fundamental rights:

- a. Right to Education and Skills Training. The right to accessible, relevant, and quality alternative learning system (ALS) programs, technical-vocational education and training (TVET), and other non-formal education schemes relevant to their age and circumstances, to be provided free of charge.
- b. Right to Gainful Employment and Livelihood. The right to fair and equal access to local and national employment and livelihood opportunities, including on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs, and entrepreneurial support.
- c. Right to Health and Well-being. The right to comprehensive health services, including mental health care, reproductive health education, drug abuse prevention, and counseling.
- d. Right to Participation and Self-Organization. The right to organize themselves, and to participate actively in planning, implementing, and evaluating programs that directly affect them at the local and national levels.
- e. Right to Protection. The right to protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, exploitation, and discrimination.

**SEC. 5.** *Institutional Mechanisms.*

- a. National OSY Development Program (NOSYDP). A comprehensive, integrated, and national program shall be formulated and implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the National Youth Commission (NYC).
- b. Local OSY Registry. The Local Government Units (LGUs), through the Local Youth Development Office (LYDO) and the respective Barangay Councils, shall be mandated to establish and maintain an updated OSY Registry in their jurisdiction. The Registry shall serve as the basis for planning and resource allocation.
- c. OSY Development Officer. LGUs shall designate or appoint an OSY Development Officer who shall be responsible for the management of

the OSY Registry, and the coordination of local programs and services for the OSY.

**SEC. 6.** *Program Implementation Responsibilities.*

- a. DSWD shall be the lead coordinating agency for the NOSYDP and shall focus on the social protection, counseling, and organizational development of the OSY.
- b. DepEd shall ensure the accessibility and quality of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) tailored to the specific needs of the OSY.
- c. TESDA shall prioritize the provision of free, relevant, and demand-driven TVET programs to registered OSY.
- d. DOLE shall establish a special job-matching and referral system for OSY graduates of the ALS and TVET programs and provide preference in government apprenticeship programs.
- e. LGUs shall be primarily responsible for the localization of the NOSYDP, including the conduct of OSY profiling, data management, and the provision of counterpart resources for program implementation.

**SEC. 7.** *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned agencies (DSWD, DepEd, TESDA, DOLE, and NYC). Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 8.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with the DepEd, TESDA, DOLE, NYC, and the DILG, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 9.** *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

**SEC. 11.** *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*