

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 7425

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda Jr.

AN ACT
INTEGRATING BASIC SANITATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE PRACTICES
IN THE CURRICULUM OF THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION (K-12)
PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Basic sanitation and personal hygiene are fundamental life skills that serve as the first line of defense against illness. For children, the acquisition of these habits at an early age is critical; when poor hygiene is neglected, students become more susceptible to illnesses that lead to chronic absenteeism, diminished cognitive focus, and poor overall learning outcomes.

In many households, particularly those facing economic, social, or educational constraints, proper sanitation is either incorrectly taught or entirely inaccessible. Consequently, the school system becomes the most reliable, and often, the only source of accurate health instruction.

However, under the current Enhanced Basic Education (K-12) Program, hygiene concepts are treated as theoretical concepts. While they appear in certain subjects, there is no clear policy requiring their practical integration. This lack of a structured mandate means that many students graduate without developing the consistent, daily habits necessary to protect their health in both school and in the community.

This bill seeks to address this policy gap by formally integrating basic sanitation and personal hygiene education into the K-12 curriculum. Rather than treating health as a one-time lecture or a theoretical topic, this bill ensures that students receive practical instruction on essential handwashing, personal and oral cleanliness, menstrual hygiene management, and basic daily prevention.

Strengthening preventive health education is a high-impact, low-cost policy intervention. By transforming hygiene from an abstract concept into a daily classroom habit, the State will create a healthier school environment that extends its benefits to the household and the community. This bill complements existing public health programs by ensuring sustainability through the education system.

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


HON. ANTONIO B. LEGARDA, JR.

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21 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
22 *Congress assembled:*
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24 Section 1. ***Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Basic Sanitation and Personal
25 Hygiene Education Act”.

26 Section 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to protect and
27 promote the right to health of the people and to instill health consciousness among
28 them. In line with this policy, the State recognizes the importance of instilling proper
29 basic sanitation and personal hygiene practices among the youth as a basic measure
30 for health protection, disease prevention, and improved educational outcomes.

31 Towards this end, the State shall institutionalize basic sanitation and personal hygiene
32 education in the K-12 curriculum to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and
33 values necessary to understand the importance of sanitation and to practice proper
34 hygiene as part of their daily lives.

35 Section 3. ***Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

- 36 a. *Basic Sanitation* refers to the minimum necessary conditions to ensure hygiene
37 and cleanliness, which helps prevent diseases and promotes health. It

encompasses the lowest-cost options for sustainable access to safe and hygienic facilities for waste disposal, ensuring a clean-living environment. This includes the safe, hygienic, and adequate collection, removal, and disposal of domestic sewage.

b. *Personal Hygiene* refers to the practice of maintaining the cleanliness of one's body and clothing to preserve overall health and well-being. It includes regular washing parts of the body and hair with soap and water, including washing of hands and feet, grooming nails, facial cleanliness, and menstrual hygiene.

c. *Menstrual Hygiene Management* refers to the practice of using clean materials to absorb menstrual blood that can be changed privately, safely, hygienically, and as often as needed for the duration of the menstrual cycle.

d. *K - 12* refers to the enhanced basic education program created under Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013".

Section 4. **Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all public and private elementary and secondary schools, subject to the standards and guidelines prescribed by the Department of Education (DepEd).

Section 5. **Mandatory Inclusion in the Elementary and High School Curriculum.** – The DepEd, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), shall integrate basic sanitation and personal hygiene education modules into the K-12 curriculum. Such integration may be done through the integration into existing subjects such as Health, Science, or other appropriate subjects, as may be determined by the DepEd.

Section 6. **Curriculum Content.** – The basic sanitation and personal hygiene education shall be age-appropriate and shall include, among others, the following topics:

A. Elementary School (Foundational and Habit-Building)

a. Proper handwashing and personal cleanliness;

b. Oral hygiene and dental care;

c. Proper use and maintenance of sanitation facilities; and

d. Promotion of healthy habits and responsible behavior.

1 B. Secondary School

- 2 a. Adolescent health education including menstrual hygiene management;
3 and
4 b. Prevention of communicable and hygiene-related diseases.

5 The curriculum content under this section shall be instructional in nature and shall not
6 be construed as mandating medical treatment nor procurement of hygiene products.

7 Section 7. ***Training of Teachers and School Personnel.*** – The DepEd, in
8 coordination with the DOH, shall ensure the training and capacity building of teachers
9 and relevant school personnel for the effective delivery of basic sanitation and
10 personal hygiene education. Health professionals may be engaged as resource
11 persons, subject to applicable rules and regulations.

12 Section 8. ***Learning Materials and Facilities.*** – The DepEd and the DOH shall
13 jointly develop age-appropriate learning materials for basic sanitation and personal
14 hygiene education. Schools shall be encouraged to maintain adequate hygiene
15 facilities, including handwashing stations and sanitary restrooms, subject to existing
16 standards and available resources.

17 Section 9. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
18 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter,
19 such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be
20 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

21 Section 10. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
22 the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and DOH shall promulgate the necessary rules
23 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

24 Section 11. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid
25 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
26 effect.

27 Section 12. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules
28 and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to the
29 provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

- 1 Section 13. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
- 2 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,