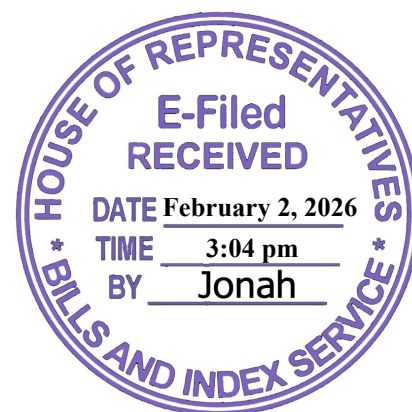


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7548



Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samanta Taliño Santos

AN ACT STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND PROJECT QUALITY IN THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10742, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11768, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10742, as amended by Republic Act No. 11768, instituted reforms to professionalize and strengthen the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK), including mandatory and continuing training for SK officials and Local Youth Development Council (LYDC) members, and the requirement for planning instruments such as the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan (CBYDP) and the Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program (ABYIP). (RA 11768, Sec. 8; Sec. 29)

The Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 10742 further require, among others, that the SK: (i) conduct youth profiling and maintain a youth database with proper turn-over and compliance with the Data Privacy Act; (ii) adopt and implement a policy on full public disclosure of transactions and documents involving public interest; and (iii) ensure contracting and bonding compliance subject to applicable procurement and auditing rules. The IRR likewise provides that SK budgets are subject to a sixty (60)-day review period and, if review is not completed on time, the budget may be deemed approved, while SK funds remain subject to existing accounting and auditing laws.

Despite these reforms, governance gaps persist in many localities: delayed or incomplete public disclosure; weak documentation that compromises audit trails; uneven capacity-building compliance; and project implementation challenges that reduce real impact on youth. These gaps undermine trust, weaken youth participation, and expose SK officials and local governments to findings of irregularity and potential liability.

The Supreme Court has recognized that transparency measures which simply implement existing laws and policies promote accountability and do not violate local fiscal autonomy. In *Villafuerte, Jr., et al. v. Robredo*, the Court upheld DILG issuances requiring posting of budgets, expenditures, contracts, and procurement-related documents as valid

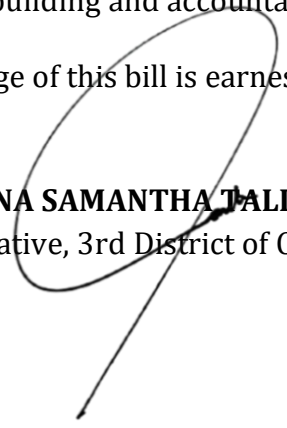
measures implementing the constitutional and statutory mandates of transparency and accountability.¹

This proposed measure, the “SK Governance, Transparency, and Project Quality 2.0 Act,” builds upon the existing SK reform framework by: (a) standardizing minimum disclosure items, timelines, channels, and templates for full public disclosure; (b) strengthening youth profiling and database governance while ensuring compliance with data privacy; (c) requiring project information sheets and results-based planning to improve project quality; (d) reinforcing procurement compliance and anti-circumvention safeguards; (e) clarifying that deemed approval of SK budgets does not cure substantive illegality nor bar COA disallowances and appropriate proceedings; and (f) institutionalizing transparent training compliance monitoring.

In doing so, the bill aims to ensure that SK funds are used effectively and lawfully, that projects are aligned with real youth needs and measurable outcomes, and that youth leadership is strengthened through capacity-building and accountable governance.

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

HON. MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALIÑO SANTOS
Representative, 3rd District of Cotabato



¹ Villafuerte, Jr., et al. v. Robredo, G.R. No. 195390, 29 April 2014

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the “SK Governance, Transparency, and Project Quality 2.0 Act.”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** — It is the policy of the State to revitalize youth participation in local governance by ensuring that Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) funds are used effectively, lawfully, and transparently; that youth projects are aligned with evidence and measurable outcomes; and that SK officials are capacitated and held accountable consistent with the constitutional policy of full disclosure of transactions involving public interest and the statutory reforms under Republic Act No. 10742, as amended.

SEC. 3. **Definition of Terms.** — For purposes of this Act: (a) “Commission” refers to the National Youth Commission. (b) “CBYDP” refers to the Comprehensive Barangay Youth Development Plan. (c) “ABYIP” refers to the Annual Barangay Youth Investment Program. (d) “Full Public Disclosure” refers to proactive, timely, and accessible publication of transactions and documents involving public interest, including budgets, disbursements, procurement, contracts, and project status. (e) “Youth Profile and Database” refers to the barangay youth profiling and database system maintained by the SK, including non-sensitive aggregated statistics and, when applicable, personal data subject to the Data Privacy Act and DepEd/NYC/DILG standards.

SEC. 4. **Strengthened Full Public Disclosure and Transparency Requirements.** — Republic Act No. 10742, as amended, is hereby further amended to require the following:

- (a) **Minimum Disclosures.** — Every SK shall adopt and implement a policy on full public disclosure covering, at a minimum: (1) the CBYDP and the ABYIP; (2) the SK annual and supplemental budgets and supporting schedules; (3) quarterly and year-end financial reports and disbursement summaries; (4) annual procurement plan and procurement method per project/procurement; (5) invitations to bid/request for quotation, abstract of quotations/bids, notices of award and notices to proceed, and approved contracts, where applicable; (6) project information sheets indicating project objectives, cost, timeline, deliverables, and responsible officers; (7) project status updates at least quarterly, including implementation progress and completion reports; and (8) final project evaluation summaries and post-implementation reports.
- (b) **Posting Channels and Timelines.** — Disclosures shall be posted: (1) in at least three (3) conspicuous public places in the barangay; and (2) on an official online page or platform designated by DILG/Commission for SK disclosures, when available, within the periods to be set in the IRR, provided that posting shall be timely and not later than thirty (30) days from approval, award, or completion, as applicable.
- (c) **Standard Templates.** — The Commission, in coordination with DILG and COA, shall issue standardized templates and checklists for disclosures to ensure uniformity and auditability.
- (d) **Sanctions for Non-Disclosure.** — Willful refusal, repeated failure, or deliberate posting of materially false disclosures shall constitute a ground for administrative disciplinary action and, where applicable, criminal liability under existing laws.

SEC. 5. Youth Profiling, Database Governance, and Data Privacy Compliance. — Republic Act No. 10742, as amended, is hereby further amended to strengthen youth profiling and data governance as follows:

- (a) The SK shall conduct youth profiling and establish, maintain, and update a barangay youth profile and database, ensuring proper submission and turn-over to the next set of SK officials, in compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.
- (b) The Commission, in coordination with DILG, shall design standard youth profiling templates and minimum data governance rules, including: (1) data minimization and purpose limitation; (2) access controls and retention periods; (3) secure turn-over procedures; and (4) publication of non-sensitive, aggregated youth statistics to inform project planning.
- (c) Any use of youth data for fundraising, political purposes, or unauthorized disclosure is prohibited and shall be subject to administrative and criminal liability under applicable laws.

SEC. 6. Project Quality and Results-Based Planning Requirements. — Republic Act No. 10742, as amended, is hereby further amended to provide:

- (a) **Evidence-Informed Planning.** — The CBYDP and ABYIP shall be based on youth profiling results and participatory consultations, and must specify: (1) problem statements and target groups; (2) measurable outputs and outcomes; (3) implementation timelines; (4) risk management and safeguarding measures for youth participants; and (5) sustainability or turn-over plans.
- (b) **Mandatory Project Information Sheet.** — Every SK-funded project shall have a Project Information Sheet, using Commission/DILG templates, prior to fund release and implementation.
- (c) **Minimum Safeguarding Standards.** — The DILG and Commission shall prescribe minimum safeguarding standards for SK projects involving minors and vulnerable youth, including consent protocols, safety supervision, and complaint mechanisms.

SEC. 7. Procurement and Contracting Compliance; Anti-Circumvention. — Republic Act No. 10742, as amended, is hereby further amended to state:

- (a) The SK Chairperson may enter into contracts on behalf of the SK, subject to Republic Act No. 10742, its IRR, the Local Government Code, the Government Procurement Reform Act, and other applicable rules.
- (b) It shall be unlawful to split procurements, simulate canvass/quotation, or use procurement modalities to circumvent competitive procurement rules and COA standards.
- (c) No SK project shall be implemented without: (1) inclusion in the ABYIP and corresponding appropriations in the approved SK budget; and (2) inclusion in the Annual Procurement Plan or its equivalent, where required by procurement rules.

SEC. 8. Strengthened Budget Review, Synchronization, and Deemed Approval Safeguards. — Republic Act No. 10742, as amended, is hereby further amended to provide:

- (a) The budget cycle of the SK shall remain synchronized with that of the barangay.
- (b) The sangguniang panlungsod or sangguniang bayan shall review SK annual and supplemental budgets for compliance with the CBYDP/ABYIP, disclosure requirements, and existing laws and regulations within sixty (60) days upon receipt.
- (c) Failure to complete review within the prescribed period shall render the SK budget deemed approved; provided, that deemed approval shall not cure

substantive violations of law and shall not bar COA disallowances or administrative/criminal proceedings where warranted.

SEC. 9. Mandatory and Continuing Training; Enforcement and Transparency of Compliance. — Republic Act No. 10742, as amended, is hereby further amended to strengthen capacity-building as follows:

- (a) The mandatory and continuing training programs shall remain a prerequisite for assumption and continuation in office of SK officials and members of the Local Youth Development Council (LYDC), consistent with existing law.
- (b) The Commission and DILG shall maintain and publish a compliance dashboard (with appropriate privacy safeguards) indicating training completion rates per barangay, municipality, city, and province.
- (c) The SK may set aside an amount for mandatory and continuing training to complement the training fund provided under law; provided, that the total appropriated for training shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the SK fund.

SEC. 10. COA-Ready Financial Recording and Audit Trail. — All SK funds shall be stated in its financial records kept by the SK treasurer in a simplified manner as may be prescribed by the COA, with copies furnished the sangguniang barangay.

The COA shall be requested to issue or update accounting and auditing guidelines pertaining to proper recording, reporting, and audit of SK funds and federation funds at all levels, including recommended project documentation checklists.

SEC. 11. Oversight, Hotline, and Case Referral Mechanism. — The Commission, in coordination with DILG, shall establish a standardized complaint and referral mechanism for SK transparency, procurement irregularities, and misuse of funds.

The mechanism shall include evidence preservation guidance, case referral to appropriate authorities, and feedback to complainants, subject to due process and data privacy requirements.

SEC. 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG and the Commission, in coordination with COA, DBM, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the IRR of this Act. The IRR shall prescribe objective standards and templates for disclosure, project quality, safeguards, training compliance reporting, and budget/procurement documentation.

SEC. 13. Appropriations. — The amounts necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against existing appropriations of concerned agencies and authorized SK funds pursuant to existing law. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 14. **Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. **Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. **Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.