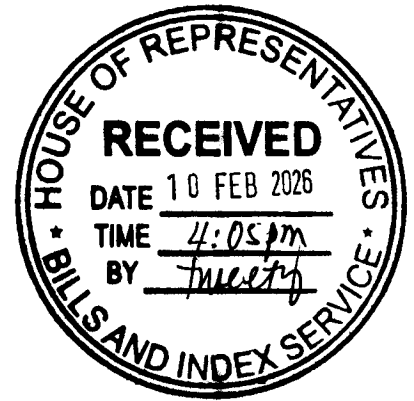




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7716

Introduced by Representative Howard A. Guintu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 3(1) of the 1987 Constitution requires all educational institutions to include the study of the Constitution as part of the curricula. Furthermore, it provides that they shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency.

This mandate underscores the importance of constitutional literacy in forming responsible, socially aware individuals committed to the nation's development and collective well-being. In *Macalintal v. Commission on Elections*¹, the Supreme Court emphasized that the Constitution is the supreme law of the land, containing the fundamental principles that govern the political system. It defines not only the rights of the people but also their corresponding duties and obligations.

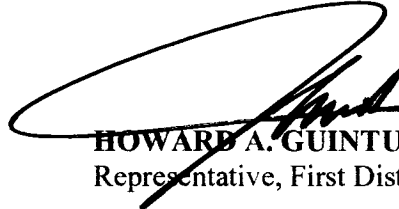
Despite this, knowledge and understanding of the Constitution remain limited among Filipinos today. A survey conducted in March 2023 revealed that 79% of Filipino adults have little to no knowledge of the 1987 Constitution, while of the remaining 21% who claim some familiarity, only 2% report having a great deal of knowledge. These findings reflect a widespread deficiency in constitutional literacy, even as proposals for charter change continue to emerge as a possible subject of legislative deliberation.

Hence, it is incumbent upon the State to faithfully implement this constitutional directive by ensuring the inclusion of the study of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines in the Grade 12 senior high school curricula of all public and private educational institutions. Through this measure, young Filipinos gain a deeper understanding of their rights, duties, and responsibilities as citizens, as well as the obligations of the State to the public, thereby equipping them to become more informed and, ultimately, responsible voters.

¹ G.R. No. 263590. June 27, 2023, EN BANC.

This bill seeks to mandate the Department of Education, together with concerned agencies and experts from the academe, to develop and integrate a Constitutional Education course into the Grade 12 curriculum. The persistent lack of constitutional instruction constitutes a serious disservice to the youth, the future of this country, who are deprived of a meaningful understanding of their rights, responsibilities, and the fundamental principles that underpin our democratic system.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard A. Guintu', is written over the printed name.

HOWARD A. GUINTU
Representative, First District of Capiz



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7716

Introduced by Representative Howard A. Guintu

**AN ACT INTEGRATING EDUCATION ON THE 1987 CONSTITUTION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE GRADE 12 SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CURRICULA OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

*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 "Constitutional Education Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - Article XIV, Section 3(1) of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines states that all educational institutions shall include the study of the Constitution as part of the curricula.

Moreover, Article XIV, Section 3(2) of the Constitution also states that educational institutions shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency. Such topics or areas are connected to education about the Constitution, which is mandated by the previous paragraph.

Thus, it is hereby declared a policy of the State to fulfill the said provision by integrating education of the Constitution in the senior high school curriculum in all public and private educational institutions

SEC. 3. *Coverage* - This Act shall cover the Grade 12 senior high school curricula of all public and private educational institutions.

SEC. 4. *Development of the Constitutional Education Course*. - The Department of Education (DepEd), with the assistance of concerned government agencies and constitutional commissions and experts on the Constitution from the academe, shall develop the Constitutional course that will be integrated in the Grade 12 curriculum in all public and private educational institutions. The instruction of this particular subject matter shall be developed in a way that is suited and responsive to the capacity of students in Grade 12. The course shall also be constructed in accordance with the standards and principles in developing the enhanced basic education curriculum stated in Republic Act. No. 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013.

SEC. 5. *Constitutional Education Course Objectives*. - The Constitutional Education course for Grade 12 students shall seek to accomplish the following:

- a) Raise their level of awareness and understanding of the history and provisions of the 1987 Constitution;
- b) Develop their appreciation and exercise of democratic values, such as transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights and dignity;
- c) Foster their understanding and practice of active citizenship and people's participation in government processes; and
- d) Equip them with the knowledge of the Constitution that they can use in their analysis and involvement in public issues.

SEC. 6. *Constitutional Educational Course Framework*. - The Constitutional Education course in the Grade 12 curriculum will cover topics including, but not limited to, the following;

- a) History and Overview of the 1987 Constitution;
- b) Nationalism, Sovereignty, and National Territory;
- c) State Principles and Policies;
- d) Fundamental Powers of the State;

- e) Government Institutions and Processes;
- f) Rights and Duties of Citizens;
- g) Democratic Values, Social Justice, and Human Rights;
- h) Active Citizenship and People's Participation in Governance;
- i) Education, Science and Technology, Arts, Culture and Sports;
- j) Current Issues

SEC. 7. *Constitution Education Training for Teachers.* - The training of teachers in carrying out in the Constitution Education course shall be incorporated in the teacher education and training programs mandated by Republic Act No. 10533 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DepEd, with the assistance of government agencies and constitutional commissions and experts on the Constitution from the academe, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the Act within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any part, section, or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* - 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.

Approved,