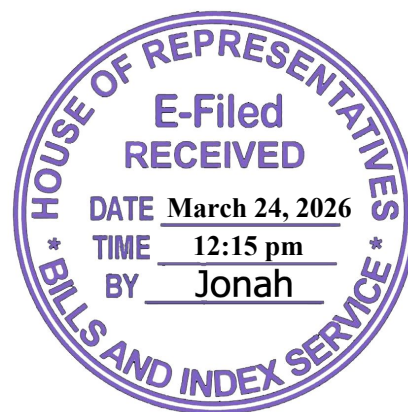


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8738**



Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “Atty. Nat” M. ODUCAO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill underscores the importance of integrating voter education into the junior and senior high school curricula to prepare the youth for their role in shaping the nation’s democratic future. By providing students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to participate responsibly in elections, the State seeks to instill a culture of informed citizenship, accountability, and civic responsibility. Through voter education, students will gain a clear understanding of the electoral system, the mechanics of voting, and the rights and duties of citizens, thereby enabling them to make reasoned and conscientious decisions at the ballot box.

The measure envisions a structured and comprehensive approach to voter education. It requires the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), to integrate voter education into the junior and senior high school curricula, ensuring that teachers are properly trained and certified to deliver such instruction. The curriculum will cover key topics such as suffrage, the electoral system and processes, the principles of educated voting, and supplementary studies on current political, social, and economic issues that influence the conduct of elections. By doing so, the program aims to equip students with the practical knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to uphold the integrity of the electoral process and strengthen democratic governance in the country.

Moreover, the bill mandates that all schools maintain adequate educational materials on voter education, including textbooks, primers, and leaflets, to ensure students have access to reliable information. The State recognizes that early exposure to voter education not only empowers the youth to participate meaningfully in elections but also cultivates a generation of civic-minded and principled voters who can discern wisely, resist misinformation, and promote transparency and accountability in public office.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Oducao", with a small circular official stamp partially visible at the bottom right of the signature.

REP. NATHANIEL “ATTY. NAT” M. ODUCAO
I Tahanan Party List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8738**

Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “ATTY. NAT” M. ODUCAO**

**AN ACT INTEGRATING VOTER EDUCATION IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR
HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Compulsory Voter Education*
2 *Act of 2026.*”

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to enlighten
4 citizens on their right to vote and to inculcate in them the duty to preserve the integrity of the
5 electoral process through the educational system.

6 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Voter Education.*** – As used in this Act, “*Voter education*” means
7 dissemination of information, materials and programs designed to inform citizens about the
8 specifics and mechanics of the voting process. It includes providing information on the right to
9 suffrage, its importance, and the proper exercise thereof, as well as information on who is eligible
10 to vote; where and how to register; how electors can check the voter lists to ensure they have been
11 duly included; what type of elections are being held; where, when and how to vote; who the
12 candidates are; and how to file complaints.

13 **SEC. 4. *Integration of Voter Education in the Junior and Senior High School Curricula.***
14 – Voter Education shall be integrated by the Department of Education (DepEd) in the junior and
15 senior high school curricula, effective at the start of the school year immediately following one (1)
16 year from the effectivity of this Act. The one (1) year transition period by conducting seminars
17 and trainings on the electoral system and process. COMELEC shall certify that the teacher, after
18 attending such seminars and trainings, is qualified to teach topics relating to the electoral system
19 and process.

20 **SEC. 5. *Voter Education Syllabus.*** – This section outlines the core components of the
21 Voter Education Syllabus, presenting the following:

22 A. *Voter education.* – The main syllabus shall include, but not limited to, the following
23 thematic areas:

1. *Suffrage.* – This area introduces to students the right to vote accorded by the Constitution, and other rights enabling citizens to participate in the conduct of public affairs;
2. *Electoral system and process.* – This area deals with the general principles underlying the present electoral system, and legislation regulating all the phases of election namely, pre-election, election proper, and post-election. It discusses the proper conduct of elections including registration, casting of ballots, and counting of votes;
3. *Educated voting.* – This area focuses on the attitude and behavior a voter must adopt to ensure fair, free, and honest elections. It emphasizes the importance of participating in elections in a manner that shall stimulate and strengthen democracy.

B. *Supplementary topics.* – This curriculum should have additional topics and studies on the political system of the country, the contextual background of elections, current political, social, and economic issues affecting the elections, and the possible solutions to address them.

C. *Other subject matters.* – Other areas of voter education may be included in the syllabus.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Agency.* – The Secretary of Education is hereby authorized and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act. The Secretary of Education shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, to promulgate the rules and regulations, including those of a disciplinary nature, to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Educational Materials.* – It shall be obligatory on all schools offering secondary education to keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the textbooks, primers, and leaflets on voter education to be issued by the DepEd. The DepEd shall determine the adequacy of the number of books, depending upon the enrolment of the school.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,