



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9742

Introduced by Representatives Arnan C. Panaligan

**AN ACT MANDATING THE TEACHING OF PHILIPPINE HISTORY AS
A SEPARATE SUBJECT FROM GRADES 7 TO 10 IN JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL AND GRADES 11 AND 12 IN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The teaching of Philippine History was removed from the High School curriculum with the implementation of the K to 12 program in 2014. The elimination of Philippine History was mandated in Department Order No. 20 of the Department of Education (DepEd). Topics and discussion relating to Philippine History were supposed to be integrated or absorbed in several subjects. But the teaching of Philippine History as a separate discipline was eliminated. Subsequent DepEd issuances further diluted the study of Philippine History at the high school level. The curriculum for Grades 7 to 12 does not provide even a superficial focus on the significant events in Philippine History, from our pre-historic origins, the colonial era, the struggles of our forefathers to attain freedom and pursue independence, the teachings and lives of eminent Filipinos, the tragic experience of war and foreign aggression, the searing experience of authoritarian rule and the other pivotal moments that shaped our sense of nationhood.

The downgrading in the teaching of Philippine History in our basic education is radically divergent from the trend in other countries that mandate the thorough study of their respective histories as a separate subject in all levels. The emphasis in the teaching of history enabled these countries to mold the minds of their young students to think critically, imbibe patriotism and prepare them to fulfill the roles of civic minded citizens.

With the elimination of Philippine History as a separate subject in high school, the present generation of young Filipinos and the next generations have been deprived of the opportunity to learn, study and emulate the noble lives and sacrifices of our great heroes in the past whose ideas helped shape a nation. The teachings of Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio, the timeless ideas of Emilio Jacinto in his "Kartilya ng Katipunan" and Apolinario Mabini in his True Decalogue, Manuel L. Quezon's Code of Ethics and the heroic deeds of other Filipinos that could have provided intellectual and moral anchor to the Filipino youth to become patriotic citizens have been rendered tragically inaccessible to them.

Today, what the Filipino youth learn about Philippine History comes from a flood of fake news, disinformation and misinformation and memes and videos from social media perpetrated by vloggers who advance rabidly partisan views to promote the interests of particular individuals, factions or families. The elimination of the study of Philippine History and the denial of the chance to young Filipinos to read and study the works of eminent and credible Filipino historians and scholars, past and present, have enabled historical distortion, historical revisionism and historical denialism to take root.

We need to study history because what we learn and remember from it matters. Our knowledge of history sharpens our understanding of who we are as a nation and what we value as a people. How we remember our past influences our understanding of the present and determines how we move into the future. This knowledge and remembrance starts in the classrooms.

In view of this, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the State to inculcate among the Filipino youth a deep knowledge of the history of the Philippines, the sacrifices and works of national heroes and eminent historical figures, the shared experiences of our forebears that helped to forge a nation and the pivotal events in the past that shaped the Filipino national community in order to foster in them love of country, patriotism, civic pride and responsible citizenship. To attain this end, the teaching of Philippine history must be made mandatory in basic education.

SECTION 2. The study of Philippine History as a separate subject shall be included in the curriculum of from Grades 7 to 10 in Junior High School and Grades 11 to 12 in Senior High School in all public and private schools in the Philippines.

SECTION 3. In the study of Philippine History in Junior and Senior High Schools as a separate subject, the Department of Education (DepEd) shall be guided by the following objectives:

- a) To inculcate in the minds of students a sense of patriotism and nationalism by making them learn and appreciate the teachings, deeds, sacrifices and examples of Filipino heroes, past and present in order to build a free and strong nation;
- b) To imbibe in the minds and hearts of the students a deep sense of nationhood by emphasizing the teaching of the pivotal and watershed events in the history of our nation, particularly the struggles to attain freedom and independence, the evolution of the Filipino nation and the importance and relevance to their lives and future of a strong and free nation;

- c) To promote critical thinking on the part of the students and enable them to analyze and evaluate the impact and relevance of historical events and personalities in the current national situation and;
- d) To ensure that the students will have access for their study and appreciation primary and secondary sources on Philippine history such as books, essays, journals, writings of historical figures, oral history and other scholarly works on the nation's history.

SECTION 4. Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, leading historians, the academic community and other relevant sectors, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to implement this Act. The Department, upon consultation with the aforementioned, shall also prepare the instructional materials, manuals, textbooks and other references to be used in the teaching of Philippine History.

SECTION 5. All laws, rules and regulations, orders, circulars and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,