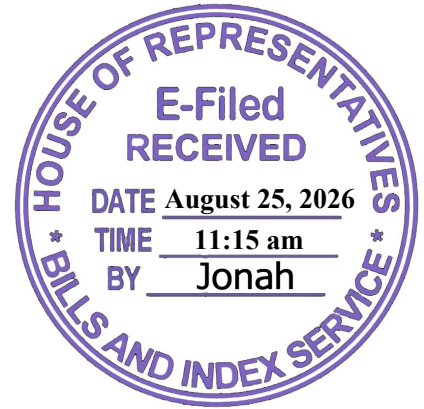


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila  
  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session



**HOUSE BILL NO. 10933**

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**Introduced by:**

**HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY INTEGRATION OF VOTER EDUCATION IN THE**  
**JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to integrate voter education in the Junior and Senior High School curricula in order to provide a fair and impartial venue for discussion of the Philippine electoral process to young citizens as they prepare to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

The electoral process being a catalyst for peaceful and democratic change in the political, social, historical, and economic structures of the country, it is essential that students in Junior and Senior High Schools are educated properly about the importance of elections, plebiscites, or referendums outside the partisan advocacies of competing political parties and candidates during election periods. By providing the youth with sufficient knowledge about the nuances and importance of elections to their future, it is hoped that the proposed High School Voter Education Act will empower the youth to exercise their right to vote responsibly.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.

  
**CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**  
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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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 “*High School Voter Education Act*.”

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** — It is the policy of the State to enlighten young citizens on their right to vote and to inculcate in them the duty to participate responsibly and preserve the integrity of the electoral process as a vital indicator of the economic, social, and political development and maturity of a nation.

**SECTION 3. Definition of Voter Education.** — As used in this Act, “Voter Education” means dissemination of information, materials, and programs designed to inform citizens about the specifics and mechanics of the voting process. It includes providing information on the history and struggle of our forefathers to exercise the right to suffrage; its importance in the growth and maturity of a nation; the proper exercise thereof, as well as information on voter eligibility, qualification and registration of voters, verification of voters list; rationale and type of elections being held; where, when, and how to vote; participation in elections as candidates; and how to seek redress for grievances and to report violations of election laws.

**SECTION 4. Integration of Voter Education in the Junior and Senior High School Curricula.** — The Department of Education (DepEd) is hereby mandated to integrate Voter Education in the junior and senior high school curricula, to be formulated with assistance from the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). Concerned teachers of the DepEd shall undergo trainings, to be conducted by the COMELEC and other election experts, on the legal and technical aspects of the electoral system and process.

**SECTION 5. Voter Education Syllabus.** —

- A. Voter Education. – The main syllabus shall include the following thematic areas:
  - a. Suffrage. – This area introduces to students on the right to vote accorded by the Constitution and other rights enabling citizens to participate in the conduct of public affairs; and
  - b. Electoral system and process. – This area deals with the general principles underlying the present electoral system, and legislation regulating all the phases of the election. It discusses the proper conduct of elections including registration, casting of ballots, and counting of votes.
- B. 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 promote and strengthen democracy.
- C. 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 solution to address them.
- D. Other Subject Matters. – Other areas of voter education maybe included in the syllabus.

**SECTION 6. Educational Materials.** — All schools offering secondary education are hereby mandated to acquire an adequate number of copies of textbooks, primers, and leaflets on voter education to be issued or approved by the DepEd. The DepEd shall determine the adequacy of the number of books, depending upon the normal volume of enrollment of the schools.

**SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The DepEd, in consultation with the COMELEC, shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out and enforce the provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 8. Non-impairment Clause.** — Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

**SECTION 9. Separability Clause.** — If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 10. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 11. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

***Approved,***