

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

Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3776**



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**Introduced by Honorable Michelle M. Antonio**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

To make the current administration's crackdown on drugs truly effective, steps must be undertaken for prevention on top of enforcement. The government should not merely address the problems of the current drug dependents. It must also strengthen its prevention and information dissemination campaign so that the number of drug dependents will no longer increase.

These prevention and information dissemination campaigns must specifically target the youth as it is a declared policy of the state to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being.<sup>1</sup> There is a need for our youth to be taught the perils of drug use. To achieve this, drug education must be mandatorily incorporated in their school curriculums.

In fact, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte himself said in his first State of the Nation Address that schools must be required to teach students about the evils of drugs.<sup>2</sup> However, the laws we currently have in place do not suffice. The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 or R.A. 9165 merely provides for the publication and distribution of materials on dangerous drugs<sup>3</sup>, and the establishment of special education drug centers for out-of-school youth and street

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<sup>1</sup>Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution

<sup>2</sup>SONA 2016: Duterte wants mandatory education on evils of drugs. July 25, 2016. <<http://www.rappler.com/nation/140887-duterte-sona-2016-philippines-education-evils-drugs>. Accessed September 21, 2016>

<sup>3</sup>RA 9165, §45

children.<sup>4</sup> There is no mandate yet for the inclusion of drug education in the K to 12 curriculum.

Moreover, the current K to 12 curriculum only incorporates drug education in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.<sup>5</sup> The average ninth grader is already aged 14-16. Incorporating drug education at this late a time in a child's life may no longer lead to the prevention of drug use. Drug education must start an earlier age so as to inculcate in the children's minds that drug use poses dangers that they certainly must avoid.

This bill seeks to address these problems by requiring all public and private schools to complete a minimum of 10 hours of drug education per academic year per grade level. Mandatory drug education shall be integrated in the Health subject of students from Grade 3 onwards.

Instead of just using textbooks, this bill also requires that the course include testimonies and real life stories from former drug dependents so that the students will realize that the dangers of drug use are real, and not merely apparent.

With this in place, students will learn the perils of drug use at an early age and in a manner that will effectively teach them that drugs must be avoided at all costs. This will lead to early prevention, and consequently, a lower incidence of drug use in the country.

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



**MICHELLE M. ANTONIO**

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<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.* §46

<sup>5</sup>K to 12 Health Curriculum Guide. <<http://www.deped.gov.ph/sites/default/files/Final%20Health%201-10%2001.09.2014.pdf>>

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF DRUG EDUCATION  
IN THE K TO 12 CURRICULUM**

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

**Section 1. Title.** –This Act shall be known as the “Mandatory Drug Education Act of 2016.”

**Section 2. Declaration of State Policy.** - This Act is adopted to enable the following declared State Policies:

- a. It is the policy of the state to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being.
- b. It is the policy of the State to protect the health of its citizens against the harmful effects of illegal drugs.
- c. It is the policy of the State to apprise its citizens to the detriments of drug addiction to their physical, economic, spiritual, and social well-being.
- d. It is the policy of the State to protect the youth from falling into drug addiction; therefore, it should educate them as to the detriments of usage, and the penalties for engaging in it whether as a user or as a part of the peddling business.

- e. It is the policy of the State that the youth be a part of nation-building; therefore, it should provide them with tools that will enable them to participate in eradicating the drug Problem in the country.

**Section 3. *Mandatory Drug Education.*** – All public and private schools in the country shall be required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of drug education per academic year per grade level.

**Section 4. *Coverage.*** – Mandatory drug education shall be integrated in the curriculum of students from Grade 3 onwards. Drug education shall be integrated in the Health Subject of students in Grade 3 to Grade 10, and in the Physical Education and Health subject of students in Grade 10 to Grade 11.

**Section 5. *Course design.*** – The Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), shall be charged to develop the content matrix (including content, content standards, performance standards, learning competency, and learning materials) for drug education. The contents may include health detriments, penal statutes, testimonies of former addicts, exposure trips to secured facilities for addicts, and such other activities or contents which in the interest of effecting this Act, the Department of Education may deem pertinent. Schools shall be encouraged to portray real life stories of the effects of drug addiction through films, plays, and dramas.

**Section 6. *Teachers' Trainings.*** – DepEd shall provide trainings to K to 12 teachers in order that they may be capacitated to incorporate a reality framework in teaching students about the effects of drugs.

**Section 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations for the DepEd. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Section 8. *Transitory Provision.*** – The course shall be integrated in the K to 12 curriculum in the school year following the approval of this Act. In the interim, DepEd, pursuant to Section 5 of this Act, shall undertake the development of the course module *and the training of the teaching staff charged with the handling of the course. For this*

purpose, the Department of Education shall provide trainings, free of charge, for teachers both in the private and the public sector.

**Section 9. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**Section 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Section 11. *Effectivity.***- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,