

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4510



INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 3 (1&2) of the Philippine Constitution provides that:

- 1) All educational institutions shall include the study of the Constitution as part of the curricula
- 2) They shall inculcate patriotism, 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 efficiency.

It is disturbing, however, that the rampant violation of human rights continues to plague the country, causing many families and individuals to suffer mercilessly, either from sexual abuse, extrajudicial killings, discrimination, internal displacement, to many other defilements. It is even more alarming, that many of our countrymen are not aware that these acts are serious desecrations of our human rights, nor do they know how to deal with it and whom to run for help.

Now more than ever, it is important that every Filipino, regardless of age, is armed with the knowledge of his basic human rights, and grasp by heart what he can do to protect and defend himself at all times.

Thus, this proposed legislation mandates the detailed study of human rights as part of the curriculum of all educational institutions in the country.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

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AN ACT
REQUIRING MANDATORY TEACHING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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

SECTION 1. All public and private schools shall include human rights courses in their curricula.

SEC. 2. The Department of Education (DepEd), in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), shall formulate courses on human rights to be taught as separate courses or incorporated in existing subjects now being taught in all levels of education throughout the country.

SEC 3. The DepEd, shall also consult and coordinate with the CHR in the writing, printing and publication of textbooks, manuals and other reading materials to be used in the human rights courses.

SEC. 4. This Act shall be implemented initially within the framework of the budget of the DepEd, for the year it is enacted into law. As far as practicable, the funds required therefore shall be drawn from its appropriations for policy formulation, program planning, standards development, and instructional materials development. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DepEd, in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. The DepEd, in consultation with the Commission on Human Rights, shall, within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, prepare the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,