

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 5549**

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**Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Former United Nations (UN) Chief Ban Ki Moon said that “we are the last generation that can change the course of climate change, and we are the first generation that then has to live with the consequences.” Undeniably, we cannot halt the inescapable consequences of climate change. Massive effort is needed in order for us to adapt to conditions that are now inevitable.

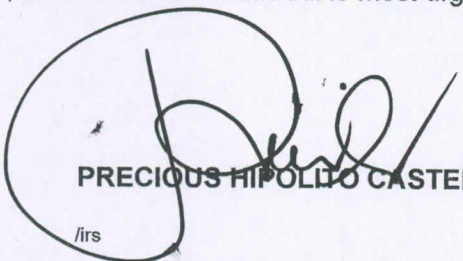
The consequences of climate change are inter-generational. Being an “inter-generational” problem, it is incumbent upon every Filipino to have the “inter-generational responsibility” to find solutions that will mitigate, if not totally eradicate, the looming effects of climate change.

It is thus the overarching intent of this humble measure to inculcate climate change awareness among the youth by mandating schools to include in their curricula a subject or course on climate change in the senior high school level. Every youth and student should be able to appreciate the importance of theoretical and practical components of climate change education.

The importance of climate change education has been given emphasis at the international level. No less than the UN said that “education is an essential component and catalyst for responding to global climate change.”<sup>1</sup>

In particular, Article 6 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) encourages Parties to “promote, develop and implement educational, training and public awareness programmes on climate change and its effects.”

The passage of this measure is thus timely and in accordance with the intent and spirit of the UNFCCC, to which we are a signatory of. As such, the enactment of this bill is most urgently sought.

  
**PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO**  
/irs

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.uncclearn.org/sites/default/files/inventory/resource\\_guide\\_on\\_integrating\\_cc\\_in\\_education\\_primary\\_and\\_secondary\\_level.pdf](https://www.uncclearn.org/sites/default/files/inventory/resource_guide_on_integrating_cc_in_education_primary_and_secondary_level.pdf)

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**AN ACT**  
**INTEGRATING INTO THE CURRICULUM OF THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL OF**  
**THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, A**  
**MANDATORY SUBJECT OR COURSE ON CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Climate Change Education Act of 2019.”

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State shall take a pro-active stance to increase the awareness of the people on the effects of climate change by integrating climate change education into the curriculum of senior high school students.

SEC. 3. *Climate Change Education in Senior High School Level.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall prescribe a mandatory subject or course in Climate Change Education for senior high school students. The instruction of the subject shall include both theoretical and practical components, in order to ensure effective learning and deep understanding of the subject matter.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from its approval, DepEd shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

*Approved,*