

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2560

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In light of recent pronouncements of Malacanang to the Benilde hazing suspects to face the full force of the law on the one hand and the resolve of De La Salle – College of Saint Benilde to launch an anti-hazing drive or so-called 'Break-away from tradition' advocacy for the death of one of its students due to alleged fraternity violence or hazing on the other, it becomes incumbent upon policymakers to think of immediate and effective solution to address this never ending culture or hazing behavior in many campus colleges or universities.

Sadly, what a research study examining hazing beliefs, behaviors and attitudes in college students only found that while hazing occurs on campus, these hazing behaviors are not identified by the students as hazing activities. In fact, 90% of students who identify having experienced hazing behavior or activity do not identify that they have experienced hazing.

And yet, hazing as an activity has been proven to be detrimental for all parties involved including the students who are subjects of hazing, the students who perpetrate it and the institution overall. Besides, it can have lasting effects on the physical and psychological well-being of students if not as a leading cause of campus deaths and often result in liability concerns for the institution.

True enough, hazing practices, used as rites of passage on college campuses, date back to the seventeenth century and were often used as methods for upper-class (older) students to intimidate or punish lower-class (younger) students. It is high time to apply the brakes for this persistently recurring cultural phenomenon and it is the intent of this bill to put an immediate and effective stop to this rite of passage, initiation, and class rivalry. Hazing deaths cannot and should not be a commonplace in the Philippine university landscape.

In this proposed measure, the CHED is mandated to come up with the following courses of action, namely: 1) provide a clear and single definition of hazing, 2) identify those forms of hazing that students are most likely to encounter in their organization, and 3) clumping of activities differentiating those found to be acceptable and appropriate and those that would be considered hazing. This approach implies that more education needs to occur before students come to campus in order to make them aware of the dangers they may encounter.

In other words, CHED should be able to impose upon colleges or universities what the institution perceives as hazing and prescribe relevant rules, regulations, and guidelines for all

colleges or universities under its supervision and control. It can issue a common set of reference on what activities could be endorsed and what could not be as they are tantamount to be bordering on hazing.

For example, the following items could be listed down in a particular college or university Student Handbook as constitutive of hazing and therefore not sanctioned by said college or university, the violation of which should be meted stringent disciplinary punishment, namely:

1. Forced participation in a drinking game
2. Forced association with certain people and not others
3. Sleep Deprivation
4. Drink large amounts of a non-alcoholic beverage (e.g. water)
5. Be yelled at, screamed at, or cursed at by other members
6. Any form of humiliation or degrading behavior
7. Forced or excessive physical activity
8. House duties
9. Forced to perform sex acts
10. Carrying of items not associated with your daily routine
11. Consumption of food items not part of your regular diet
12. Forced singing or chanting
13. Personal Servitude (i.e. retrieving meals, cleaning apartments, driving)
14. Locked in or restricted to a room or basement of a house or building against your will
15. Physically punched, slapped, struck, kicked or beaten in any way
16. Study Hours
17. Drink large amounts of alcohol to the point of getting sick or passing out
18. Being awoken in the middle of the night
19. Forced consumption of alcohol
20. Dress Codes
21. Collecting active members signatures through the process of interviews
22. Paddling
23. Wearing inappropriate apparel or costumes

Nothing in this humble measure stops the CHED or its concerned college or university from revising this hierarchy list/map when newer developments emerge in the campus scene constitutive of hazing behavior.

The immediate passage of this modest measure is prayed for.



WINNIE CASTELO

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AN ACT

UNILATERALLY MANDATING COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO DEFINE CAMPUS HAZING, ENUMERATE FORMS OF HAZING, AND DISSEMINATE THROUGH PERTINENT CIRCULAR ACTIVITIES THAT COULD BE ENDORSED IN ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AS APPROPRIATE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the 'Agency-Based Hierarchy Map Against Campus Hazing of 2016'.

SEC. 2. The Commission on Higher Education shall be the Office of Primary Responsibility to provide a single and clear definition of campus hazing, enumerate through a hierarchy list/variable map the forms of hazing, and clump activities that it deems acceptable against those it deems inappropriate relative to hazing behavior.

Under this Act, CHED is hereby mandated to issue rules, regulations, and guidelines through appropriate circular for compliance by all colleges or universities within its supervision and control.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act stops the CHED and its agency-based approach against hazing from issuing new items in the hierarchy list/variable map whenever new developments emerge in the campus landscape or when contingencies so demand.

SEC. 4. The CHED therefore shall hold concerned colleges or universities liable in accordance with existing laws for student deaths or injuries resulting from hazing, its variant forms, and other similar otherwise inappropriate activities not endorsed by CHED.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval and its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,