

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2332

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Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE CARLOS O. COJUANGCO

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Juvenile curfews are local ordinances or laws proscribing minors, generally within a specified age range, from occupying public areas and streets during particular times. This policy is not new and is one of the most important regulations for the protection of the children from the vices of the street. Reports of barangay officials and law enforcement agencies reveal that minor children roaming around, loitering or wandering in the evening are the frequent personalities involved in various infractions of city ordinances and national laws. Hence, the overriding purpose of curfew for minors is to reduce the amount of juvenile crime and promote parental control over their teens.

Having curfew means that those under 18 get as much adult supervision as possible. This lessens the chances of them getting involved in juvenile violence and crime. Parents often feel assured and relieved having their kids at home and not on the streets at night time. In addition, curfew keeps them away from temptations such as drug use, violent acts, sexual risks, heavy partying, and alcohol intake.

This bill proposed to impose curfew on minors from 10 in the evening up to 5 in the morning. Those who are accompanied by their parents or guardians are exempted from the coverage of the measure, as well as other special cases. The implementation of the measure is primarily laid upon the shoulders of barangay officials who are in direct contact with the parents and children in their respective constituencies. As a deterrent and to promote a sense of community concern on the offenders, penalties imposable are community services of various durations depending upon the frequency of the violations committed. Parents and guardians of recidivists and habitual delinquents will be stripped of their right to parental custody on the third and succeeding infractions of their wards.

Curfews imposed on minors are a form of zero tolerance policing, showing that a community will not allow an atmosphere of lawlessness to develop. They can also help to change a negative youth culture in which challenging the law is seen as desirable.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate consideration and passage of this bill is earnestly requested.



**CARLOS O. COJUANGCO**  
*Representative*

Republic of the Philippines  
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*Quezon City*

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AN ACT  
IMPOSING CURFEW HOURS FROM TEN IN THE  
EVENING (10:00 PM) TO FIVE IN THE MORNING (5:00  
AM) FOR PERSONS BELOW EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS  
OF AGE AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR  
VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

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

1        **Section 1. *Imposition of Curfew Hours; Covered Persons*** - There is  
2 hereby imposed curfew hours from ten o'clock in the evening (10:00 pm) to  
3 five o'clock in the morning (5:00 am) for persons below eighteen (18) years  
4 of age.

5        **Section 2. *Exceptions*** - During curfew hours no minors shall be  
6 allowed in the streets, commercial establishments, recreation centers, malls  
7 or any other areas outside the immediate vicinity of their residence except:

8        a) Those accompanied by their parents, family members of legal age, or  
9        guardians upon proper verification;

10       b) Those running lawful errands such as buying of medicines, using of  
11       telecommunication facilities for emergency purposes and the like  
12       upon proper verification;

1 c) Students of night school and those who by virtue of their employment  
2 are required to stay in the streets or outside their residence after ten  
3 o'clock in the evening (10:00 pm); *Provided*, That minors falling  
4 under these categories shall secure a certification from their *Punong*  
5 *Barangay* exempting them from the coverage of this Act, or present a  
6 document or identification proving their qualification under such  
7 category.

8 **Section 3. *Role of the Barangay*** - The *Punong Barangay*, Members  
9 of the Barangay Council and the duly designated *Barangay Tanods* are  
10 hereby authorized to implement the provisions of this Act.

11 **Section 4. *Guidelines in Apprehension*** - Offenders of this Act shall  
12 be apprehended in accordance with the following guidelines:

- 13 • The apprehending official or officer shall, without unnecessary delay,  
14 notify the parents or guardians of the offender and release the offender  
15 in recognizance to said parents or guardian with the understanding  
16 that the offender shall be submitted to the *Punong Barangay* for the  
17 corresponding penalty under Section 5 of this Act;
- 18 • In cases where the offender is not a resident of the barangay where the  
19 apprehension was made, during the determination of the identities and  
20 residence of the offender's parents or guardian for purposes of their  
21 information and release of the offender to their custody, the offender  
22 shall be held in the holding facility of the barangay where the  
23 apprehension was made for not more than twenty-four (24) hours, and  
24 thereafter if the release of the offender to his / her parents' or  
25 guardian's custody cannot be reasonably accomplished, the *Punong*

1        *Barangay* concerned shall turn over the offender to the Municipal or  
2        City Social Welfare Office concerned for proper disposition;

- 3        • For an offender who is homeless, abandoned, neglected or have no  
4        known parents, relatives or guardians, the apprehending official or  
5        officer shall refer the offender to the custody of the Municipal or City  
6        Social Welfare Office concerned within twenty-four (24) hours of  
7        apprehension.

8        **Section 5. *Penalties*** - Any offender of this Act shall be penalized as  
9        follows:

- 10       a) *First Offense* – Four (4) hours of community service consisting of  
11       cleaning and sweeping of surroundings, among others.
- 12       b) *Second Offense* – Twelve (12) hours of community service consisting  
13       of cleaning and sweeping of surroundings, among others.
- 14       c) *Third Offense and Subsequent Offenses* – Forty (40) hours of  
15       community service and loss of parental authority over the offender by  
16       the parents or guardians concerned

17       **Section 6. *Suspension of the Provisions of the Act in Special***  
18       ***Cases.*** - The President, through administrative issuances, may suspend the  
19       implementation of this Act nationwide or in specific areas for a length of  
20       time as may be necessary in celebration of fiestas and special and legal  
21       holidays.

22       **Section 7. *Role of the Philippine National Police (PNP)*** - The  
23       Philippine National Police shall provide police support to the *Punong*  
24       *Barangays* whenever needed for the enforcement of this Act.

1       **Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Department  
2 of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of  
3 Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation with the Philippine  
4 National Police (PNP), shall, within ninety (90) days from the passage of  
5 this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective  
6 implementation of this Act.

7       **Section 9. *Separability Clause*** - If any provision of this Act is  
8 declared unconstitutional or inoperative, the other provisions not so declared  
9 shall remain in force and effect.

10       **Section 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
11 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the Act or the rules and  
12 regulations promulgated pursuant thereto are hereby repealed or amended  
13 accordingly.

14       **Section 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
15 after publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

**APPROVED.**