

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2069



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Sponsored by: Congressman BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the beginning of time, immorality; unrighteousness; hatred; lack of discipline; riotous living; covetousness; corruption; disrespect to law, authority and parents; lust for money, identity, power and influence; poverty, among others, have engulfed the world, wrecking families, destroying relationships, sowing disorder, and even bringing down leaders and governments.

5 This is very true in our country, despite the Constitutional declarations that: "the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, **moral, spiritual**, intellectual, and social **well-being**" (Sec. 13, Art. II, Constitution); "All educational institutions shall teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen **ethical and spiritual values**, develop **moral character and personal discipline** (Secs. 3(1) and (2), Art. XIV, constitution; and "at the option expressed in writing by the parents or guardians, **religion shall be allowed to be taught** to their children or wards in public elementary and high schools" (Sec. 3(3), Art. XIV, Constitution.

While we have earned the identity of being the only 'Christian' nation in Asia, it seems that we have not truly appreciated the relevance, importance and power of one Book, called the **Bible** – a literary masterpiece, the best seller of all books in the world, and the only book that contains a truly lasting solution to man's and society's problems. This is the only book that tells about **Eternal Life**. If, therefore, *religion* is allowed to be taught in public elementary and high schools, and if such literary works as *Homer's Iliad* and *Odyssey* are being read and studied in school, with more reason that the Bible which teaches creation, science, and history, among others, should be read and studied in elementary and high schools. God has declared: "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they that testify of me" (*Jn. 5:39, KJV*); "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (*2 Ti. 3:16*); and "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart", "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (*Deuteronomy 6:6,7, KJV*).

If only the **Bible** is read, proclaimed, obeyed and practiced, the Philippines, our beloved and only Country, would be a much better place to live in, and our government would be a government of honesty, righteousness and order. If only Biblical discipline, principles and standards are taught and inculcated in the minds of our children, there would be no much problems on leadership, governance, and peace and order.

The immediate passage of this Bill is, therefore, earnestly pleaded.



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**AN ACT**

MAKING BIBLE READING MANDATORY IN ALL PUBLIC  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the Mandatory Bible  
Reading Act of 2019.

SEC. 2. Statement of Policy. – Consistent with the Constitutional  
declarations that: the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-  
building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, and  
social well-being; and educational institutions shall teach the rights and  
duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral  
character and personal discipline, and encourage critical and creative  
thinking, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to make Bible reading a  
part of the curriculum for public elementary and high school, under the firm  
belief that the best stage to mold and strengthen the youths' moral, spiritual,


ethical, intellectual and social character, and personal discipline, is in the elementary and high school levels, and the conviction that the Bible is a book of righteous instructions, principles and standards, discipline, and a book of moral and spiritual values.

SEC. 3. Mandatory Bible Reading. – The subjects English and Pilipino, in public elementary and high school, shall include the reading of, and discussion and examination on, the Bible: Provided, that in the case of our Muslim pupils and students, such subjects shall include the reading of, discussion and examination on, the Koran.

SEC. 4. Rules and Regulations. – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations for the effective implementation of this Act which shall be effective and implemented starting on the immediately following school year.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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



Approved,