

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6643



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the role of educational institutions in molding the minds of the youth towards nation-building and responsible political awareness. Article XIV, Section 3 (2) of the 1987 Constitution provides:

"They shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, 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 vocational efficiency."

With this in view, there is a need to pursue a responsible voter's education as early as high school to help them learn the process in selecting future leaders of our country. This will ensure the broadest participation of Filipino citizens in the electoral and political processes.

This bill seeks to integrate a mandatory voter's education curriculum in the junior and senior high school for both public and private schools. The intention is to inculcate in the minds of the youth the values and importance of suffrage and to become responsible members of the electorate in upholding the sanctity of the elections.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MDC' with a stylized flourish.

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT

**INTEGRATING VOTER'S EDUCATION IN THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL CURRICULA IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.***— This Act shall be known as the “Voter’s Education Act of
2 2020.”

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State recognizes the vital role of the Filipino
5 youth in nation-building and encourages their involvement in public and civic affairs. It
6 recognizes the role of educational institution in inculcating among the Filipino youth
7 patriotism and nationalism, and in teaching the Filipino youth the rights and duties of
8 citizenship in nation building. Moreover, the State recognizes the need to educate junior and
9 senior high school students, who are about to become first-time, in becoming responsible
10 members of the electorate through curriculum-based Voter’s Education to preserve the
11 integrity and sanctity of the electoral process through the educational system.
12

13 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Voter’s Education.*** – As used in this Act, “Voter’s Education”
14 refers to the dissemination of information, materials and programs designed to inform
15 citizens about the specifics and mechanics of the voting process. It includes providing
16 information on the right to suffrage, its importance, and the proper exercise thereof, as well as
17 information on who is eligible to vote; where and how to register; how electors can check the
18 voter lists to ensure they have been duly included; what type of elections are being held;
19 where, when and how to vote; who the candidates are; and how to file complaints.
20

21 **SEC. 4. *Mandatory Voter’s Education.*** – Voter Education shall be integrated by the
22 Department of Education (DepEd) in the senior high school curriculum effective at the start
23 of the school year immediately following one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. The
24 Department of Education (DepEd), the Technical Education and Skills Development

1 Authority (TESDA) and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall formulate the
2 Voter's Education curriculum. Such curriculum shall be common to both public and private
3 schools, out of school youth, and enrollees in the Alternative Learning System (ALS).

4
5 The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) shall assist DepEd in preparing teachers during
6 the one-year transition period by conducting seminars and trainings on the electoral system
7 and process. COMELEC shall certify that the teacher, after attending such seminars and
8 trainings, is qualified to teach topics relating to the electoral system and process.

9
10 **SEC. 5. Voter Education Curriculum. –**

11
12 (a) **Voter Education.** – The main syllabus shall include, but not limited to, the following
13 thematic areas:

14
15 (i) **Suffrage.** – This area introduces to students the right to vote accorded by the
16 Constitution, and other rights enabling the citizens to participate in the conduct of
17 public affairs.

18 (ii) **Electoral System and Process.** – This area deals with the general principles
19 underlying the present electoral system, and legislation regulating all the phase of
20 election, namely, pre-election, election proper, and post-election. It discusses the
21 proper conduct of elections including registration, casting of ballots, and counting
22 of votes;

23 (iii) **Educated Voting** – This area focuses on the attitude and behavior that a voter must
24 adopt to ensure fair, free, and honest elections. It emphasizes the importance of
25 participating in elections in a manner that shall stimulate and strengthen
26 democracy.

27
28 (b) **Supplementary Topics.** – This curriculum should have additional topics and studies
29 on the political system of the country, the contextual background of elections, current
30 political, social, and economic issues affecting the elections and the possible solutions to
31 address them.

32
33 (c) **Other Subject Matters.** – Other area of voter education may be included in the
34 syllabus.

35
36 **SEC. 6. Educational Materials.** – It shall be obligatory on all schools offering
37 secondary education to keep in their libraries an adequate number of copies of the textbooks,
38 primers and leaflets on voter education to be issued by the Department of Education. The
39 Department of Education shall determine the adequacy of the number of books, depending
40 upon the enrollment of the school.

41
42 **SEC. 7. Implementing Agency.** – The Secretary of Education is hereby authorized
43 and directed to adopt a system to implement and carry out effectively the provisions of this
44 Act. The Secretary of Education shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act,

1 promulgate the rules and regulations, including those of a disciplinary nature, to carry out and
2 enforce the provisions of this Act.
3

4 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** – The sums necessary for the implementation of this Act,
5 including but not limited to the development of the Voter’s Education Curriculum, training
6 and deployment of teachers, transportation of Vote Counting Machines (VCM) shall be
7 charged against the current year’s appropriations of the implementing agencies under the
8 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued
9 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
10

11 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
12 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full
13 force and effect.
14

15 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and
16 rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
17

18 **SEC. 11. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,