

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 322



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Introduced by **KABATAAN PARTY-LIST Representative Sarah Jane I. Elago,**  
**ACT TEACHERS PARTY-LIST Representative France L. Castro,**  
**BAYAN MUNA PARTY-LIST Representatives Carlos Isagani T. Zarate,**  
**Ferdinand Gaite and Eufemia C. Cullamat,**  
**and GABRIELA WOMEN'S PARTY Representative Arlene D. Brosas**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Youth power is recognized in the world today as a mobilizing force of the social development. The youth are filled with tremendous energy and towering ambitions to be a catalyst of change in the society to transform the present times into a bright future. Recognizing the momentous role of the youth in the country, Dr. Jose Rizal once quoted that "The youth is the hope of our Motherland." As such, they are considered as a 'trustee' of the nation-building process who will establish the national identity and secure the essence of democracy by ensuring that the rights and liberties of our people are being upheld all the time.

The history even unveiled the heroism of the Filipino youth who sacrificed their lives for democracy. First Quarter Storm is a major event initiated by youth and other advocates to combat tyrannical rule and authoritarianism. It is a continuous movement from January 25, 1970 to March 1970 against the dictatorship of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

It all started when President Marcos was delivering his State of Nation's Address (SONA) on January 26, 1970. The youth demonstrators demanded for constitutional reform before the law enforcers responded with violent riot. On the following days, simultaneous demonstrators were held again for constitutional reform, and to express grievances against the police for the said incidence. Security forces reacted again with force until it caused the death of four (4) students and hundreds of wounded protesters. Series of demonstrations spread throughout the archipelago. As a response, President Marcos declared Martial Law that eventually transpired the death of democracy and the rise of totalitarian rule.

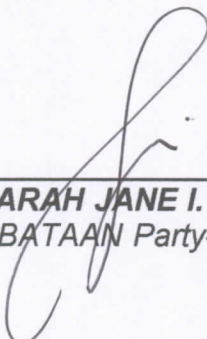
This event must not be buried in the past but rather considered as a success of the struggle of the Filipino people in ousting a dictator. The memories of the youth who fought to revive democracy and to defend the rights and liberties of the Filipino people must be respected as a foundation of realization of our dream to free ourselves from misery of fascist rule. Without their efforts, our society must have been paralyzed

up to the present due to the atmosphere of fear and agony persisted arising from excruciating oppression of the government and state violence against its people.

This bill seeks to declare a day, specifically, January 25, also the day that FQS started, as the day for commemoration of the anniversary for First Quarter Storm. During this proposed official anniversary of FQS, it will be a chance for every citizen to look back to the past and learn the lessons from the nightmare of the Marcos regime. It is the day we can repay and honor those youths who never feared to fight and sacrifice their lives in pursuit of their aspiration to establish the society whereby the freedom is respected and equality among the people is observed. Their fight is not an end but a beginning for our struggle toward democratic goal.


This representation earnestly seeks the passage of this bill at the most immediate possible time. Let this be a model for the international community, a step closer to a more informed, dynamic, and critical public crucial for democracy.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.




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**Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**  
KABATAAN Party-List



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**Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE**  
BAYAN MUNA Party-List




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**Rep. FERDINAND GAITE**  
BAYAN MUNA Party-List




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**Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT**  
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



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**Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS**  
GABRIELA Women's Party



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**Rep. FRANCE N. CASTRO**  
ACT Teachers Party-List



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**AN ACT RECOGNIZING JANUARY 25 EVERY YEAR AS OBSERVANCE OF THE  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST QUARTER STORM, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

1       **Section 1. Short Title** – This Act shall be otherwise known or cited as “First  
2 Quarter Storm Anniversary Act.”  
3

4       **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** –  
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6               (a)     The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building  
7 and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social  
8 well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage  
9 their involvement in public and civic affairs;  
10

11              (b)     The State shall give priority to education, science and  
12 technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate  
13 social progress, and promote total human liberation and development; and  
14

15              (c)     The State shall encourage non-governmental, community-  
16 based, or sectoral organizations that promote the welfare of the nation.

17              **Section 3.** On 25<sup>th</sup> of January of every year, school officials,  
18 student councils, and students shall undertake appropriate activities to commemorate  
19 the First Quarter Storm, such as, but not limited to forum, panel discussions, exhibits.

20       **Section 4. The Role of Agencies Concerned** –

21              (a)     ***National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP)-***  
22 The NHCP created pursuant to Republic Act 10086 shall lead its role in  
23 implementation of historical education activity that seeks to educate the audience on  
24 the facts about First Quarter Storm. It shall coordinate with other agencies concerned  
25 for planning and implementation of the programs.

1 (b) **Commission on Higher Education (CHED)**- It shall coordinate  
2 with NHCP for planning and implementation of educational activities on FQS to all the  
3 academic institutions in tertiary level. Furthermore, it shall allow all the universities and  
4 college under its jurisdiction, students, and faculties to conduct any activity inside their  
5 institutions with relevance to FQS.

6 (c) **Department of Education (DepEd)**- It shall plan, with  
7 coordination of NHCP, any educational activities and discussions on FQS to all the  
8 students from primary, secondary and senior high school level. It shall give directives  
9 to all the schools under its jurisdiction to conduct an event that shall consist of  
10 academic, art, musical and cultural activities which shall inculcate nationalism and  
11 patriotism among the students.

12 (d) **National Youth Commission (NYC)**- It shall encourage all its  
13 local and regional chapters, affiliated organizations and agencies, and its individual  
14 members to plan, formulate, and organize an event in relevance to the  
15 commemoration of FQS anniversary.

16 **Section 5. Appropriations Clause.** -- The amounts necessary to carry out the  
17 initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's  
18 appropriation of the agencies. Thereafter, the amounts necessary for the continued  
19 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

20 **Section 6. Separability Clause.** — If for any reason any section or provision  
21 of this Act is declared unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not  
22 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

23 **Section 7. Repealing Clause.** — Any laws, decrees, or laws, decrees, or  
24 rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this  
25 Act are hereby amended or repealed.

26 **Section 8. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
27 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
28 circulation.

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30 *Approved,*