Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO.

2197

Introduced by: "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

AN ACT

MANDATING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY FROM INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS, THEREBY CREATING A CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The growing number of lawless activities does not only affect our communities and public places but also inside our educational institutions. In the Philippines, most incidents include theft, bomb threat from terrorist groups and illegal drug related cases. Recently, a Grade 7 student at Castor Alviar National Highschool, and a resident of Barangay Pansol was shot dead by an assailant using revolver. The victim, Mark Anthony Miranda, was shot inside his classroom in front of his classmates. Reports said the school has no security guards.

The purpose of this Bill is to provide security and safety measure in educational institutions including technical vocational institutions throughout the country by establishing a Crime Prevention Committee. This committee is responsible for creating programs and measures against common crimes and offenses under special law like hazing incidents and drug related activities lurking inside and outside the campuses. This committee shall adopt policies that will aid in the prevention of the aforementioned crimes.

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MANDATING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY FROM INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS, THEREBY CREATING A CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled: SO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as "The Campus Safety and Security Act"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies. - It is the declare responsibility of the State to uphold and promote the right of the youth to assistance, including proper care and nutrition and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, and exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development as provided under the Constitution. It is also hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure access to quality education by ensuring the safety and security of students in all institution of higher learning and recognizing the role of the youth in nation-building and in the development of country.

SECTION 3. Scope. - This Act shall apply to all higher education institutions (HEls) and Technical-Vocational Institutions (TVIS).

SECTION 4. Safety and Security Services. - All HEIs and TVIs shall endeavor to deliver adequate safety and security services to students, which include the provision of safe and secure environment and the conduct of programs and activities that promote safety and security from both internal and external threats.

For this purpose, the following shall be provided by HEls and TVIs:

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- A.) A safe, accessible and secure environment, buildings and facilities that shall comply with government standards. Licensed and competent security personnel shall ensure the safety and security of the students, faculty, nonteaching personnel and other members of the academic community and their belongings; and
- B.) A mechanism for the students to help crime prevention, safety and security of the concerned Hel and TVI.

SECTION 5. Creation of a safety and security Committee- A Safety and Security Committee (SSC) shall be established in every HEl and TVI to formulate policies and strategies that shall help protect the academic community from both internal and external threats to their safety and security, such as theft, robbery, rape, and other forms of violence within and outside the area where the HEI or TVM is located. The composition of the SSC shall be determined by the governing boards of the HEIs and TVIs and the owners/proprietors/administrators of TVIs as the case may be.

SECTION 6. *Duties and Responsibilities of the SSC.* - The SSC shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

A. To formulate, in consultation with the school head, the chief of police where the HEI and TVI is located, the punong barangay, and other security specialists as maybe necessary and appropriate, a Safety and Security Strategy. Such Safety and Security shall include the following:

- 1. A statement of current campus policies regarding procedures and facilities for the students and others to report criminal actions or other emergencies occurring on campus and policies concerning the institution's response to such reports;
- 2. A statement of current policies concerning security and access to campus facilities, including campus residences, and security considerations used in the maintenance of campus facilities;
- 3. A statement of current policies concerning campus law enforcement including the following:
- (i) The enforcement authority of security personnel including there working relationship with local and national police agencies; and
- (ii) Policies with encourage accurate and prompt reporting of all crimes to the campus police and the appropriate police agencies;
- 4. A description of the type and frequency of programs designed to inform students and employees about campus security procedures and practices and to encourage students and employees to be responsible for their own security and the security of others;
- 5. A description of programs designed to inform students and employees about the prevention of crimes;
- 6. A statement of policy concerning the monitoring and recording through local police agencies of criminal activities committed by off-campus student organizations which are recognized by the institution and that are engage in by students attending the institutions, including those student organizations with off-campus housing facilities; and
- 7. A statement of policy regarding the possession, use and sale of alcoholic beverages and the enforcement of underage drinking laws and a statement of policy regarding the possession, use, and sale of illegal drugs and enforcement of drug and a description of any drug or alcohol abuse education programs.
 - B. To formulate crime prevention programs for the implementation of the SSC;
- C. To coordinate with HEI and TVI administrators, deans, or other officials as the case may be, in the maintenance of peace and order within the HEI/TVI premises.
- D. To recommend to the HEI/TVI the conduct of seminars or training on crime and drug prevention and control in coordination with the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) regional office, local police station or the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).
- E. To conduct intensive information drive on the Safety and Security Strategy which includes semestral distribution of copies and orientation thereon; and
- F. To submit to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) or to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), through their respective regional offices, the composition of the SSC and its Safety and Security Strategy, as well as its program of activities and projects for the academic year two (2) months after the closing of enrolment in the first

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SECTION 7. Approval and Review of the Safety and Security Strategy. - The Safety and Security Strategy, after approval by the Board of Trustees/Regents of the HEIs or the owners/proprietors/administrators of the TVIs, shall be submitted to the CHED or TESDA taking into consideration the circumstances of each HEI or TVI, it shall be returned to the Board or the owners/proprietors/administrators for appropriate action: Provided, that pending its review, the plan shall implemented by the HEI or TVI concerned.

The Safety and Security Strategy shall be subject to review or reassessment by the board or the owners/proprietors/administrators as the case may be, either annually as often required by

the circumstances.

SECTION 8. Duties of the CHED Regional Offices and the TESDA Regional Offices. - The CHED Regional Offices and the TESDA Regional Offices shall coordinate, supervise and monitor the implementation of the Safety and Security Strategy, as approved, and projects of SSCs, jointly with the NAPOLCOM in the region.

The CHED and the TESDA shall consolidate regional report for submission to the Office

of the CHED Chairperson and the Office of the TESDA Director General, respectively.

SECTION 9. Administrative Sanctions — Any HEI or its Board of Trustees or Regents or any TVI or its owners/proprietors/administrators and other officers/persons responsible for the failure comply with the provisions of this Act shall be subject to administrative sanctions to be imposed by the CHED and the TESDA, respectively.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act, the CHED and the TESDA, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (CocOPEA), and the Association of Local Colleges and Universities (ALCU), shall issue the necessary rules and regulation for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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