

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4257



Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belar, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The start of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Economic Community in 2015, a phenomenon which is otherwise known as “ASEAN Integration”, presents both opportunities and challenges for our country.

With its avowed intention to form a single regional market and production base for the 10 ASEAN members composed of the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darusallam, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, and the consequent free flow of goods, services, investments, skilled labor and free movement of capital, it is a phenomenon which both the government and the private sector should be ready to accept and prepare for so as to get the most therefrom.

As the ASEAN Integration appears to be a game-changer in Philippine foreign economic relations, there should be a multi-sectoral effort in meeting its challenges. In this regard, good planning is key and the adage that failing to plan is tantamount to failure cannot be more than true in this case.

This Act aims to tap existing government resources in the planning and implementation of the ASEAN Integration in the Philippines, specifically our Planning and Development Coordinators which are officers of our local government units under Section 476 of the Local Government Code, and the regular government agencies.

SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.
Representative
I-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A TEN YEAR ASEAN INTEGRATION PLAN AND THE
IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “ASEAN Integration Action Plan Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. In an era of regional cooperation such as what the ASEAN Integration brings, it is the duty of the government to prepare the country and its citizens for the opportunities and challenges that it brings.

SEC. 3. Within 30 (thirty) days from the effectivity of this Act, all Planning and Development Coordinators of every city and municipality in the country are mandated to study ASEAN Integration, and to conduct consultations and/or surveys among the constituents of the LGUs, the private sector, the businesses located within the LGU and pertinent government agencies regarding the opportunities and challenges presented by the ASEAN Integration. Within the same period, the Planning and Development Coordinator of every city and municipality are mandated to draft and prepare an action plan for the next ten years as to how such city or municipality would respond to the challenges and opportunities of ASEAN Integration. Thereafter, the Planning and Development Coordinator of every city or municipality will submit his action plan to the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator who is then mandated to prepare within another thirty (30) days an action plan on ASEAN Integration for the whole province based on the separate action plans submitted by the various cities and municipalities in his province which shall be contained as separate annexes in the action plan which

- he will prepare. Every Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator shall submit his Provincial ASEAN Integration Action Plan to the pertinent Regional ASEAN Integration Council referred to in the paragraph in the next paragraph.

SEC.4. Within Ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, a Regional ASEAN Integration Council shall be constituted in every region in the country which shall be composed of all the Regional Directors of all government agencies in every region with the Regional Director of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) as Chairman with the Regional Directors of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Information and Communications Technology, and the Department of Science and Technology as Vice-Chairmen. All Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators of all provinces within every region shall become members of the Regional ASEAN Integration Council.

SEC. 5. Within Thirty (30) days from its constitution, every Regional ASEAN Integration Council is mandated to draft and prepare a Regional ASEAN Integration Action Plan which shall be primarily based from the various Provincial ASEAN Integration Action Plans submitted by the the various Provincial Planning and Development Coordinators. To finalize the Regional ASEAN Integration Action Plan, the Council may conduct consultations with various sectors and conduct relevant surveys.

SEC. 5. The Regional ASEAN Integration Council shall submit a copy of its Regional ASEAN Integration Action Plan to all national government agencies for policy coordination.

SEC. 6. After the finalization of the ASEAN Integration Action Plan, the Regional ASEAN Integration Council shall hold quarterly meetings to monitor the implementation of the Regional ASEAN Integration Plan and to come up with recommendations as to how the country could meet the challenges as well as maximize the opportunities presented by ASEAN Integration.

SEC. 5. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), in collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) are mandated to formulate the rules and regulations of this Act.

SEC. 6. The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.