

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6418



Introduced by Representative Hon. Christopher V.P. de Venecia

AN ACT
INTEGRATING THE STUDY OF CURRENT EVENTS IN THE K TO 12
CURRICULUM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A 2018 study conducted by the Far Eastern University's Public Policy Center showed that 86% of the Gen Z students (aged 17-24) never take a stand as far as their political views or opinions are concerned. It concluded that the Filipino youth are generally apathetic towards political discussions. Another survey in 2021 by the Social Weather Station suggests that 51% of Filipinos find it difficult to distinguish accurate from fake news. This is an alarming reality of the lack of an informed and politically engaged citizenry.

In order to strengthen the civic consciousness of the Filipino learner, institutional changes in our education system must be undertaken to encourage the younger generation to engage in political affairs. This measure proposes the integration of the discussion of current events in our K to 12 curriculum, as well as in its learning materials.

This measure will not just strengthen the understanding of world affairs, and the socio-political engagement by the learners, this will also train our teachers in proper media literacy, and innovations in their pedagogy.

Thus, support for this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher V.P. de Venecia".

HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “Current Events Education Act”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State recognizes the fundamental role of all educational institutions in fostering the youth to become part of an informed citizenry geared towards national development.

Towards these ends, the State shall incorporate the study of current events in the primary level to promote the critical thinking of the Filipino learner, as well as improving the understanding of society as a whole.

SEC. 3. *Current Events.* — *Current Events* shall refer to any factual political, economic, or social occurrences of interest, relevance, or importance in the locality, country, or the world happening in the present time.

SEC. 4. *Integrating Current Events Heritage in the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum.* — Current Events shall be incorporated and integrated in the current K to 12 subjects such as, but not limited to, social studies, civics, media studies, or science, as may be determined by the Department of Education in the next preceding section.

SEC. 5. *Coverage of Current Events.* — It is hereby mandated that the study of Current Events shall be an integral part of the K to 12 basic curriculum. The Department of Education shall incorporate discussions on current events in modules and materials it shall release. The DepEd shall ensure that any materials regarding current events will remain as factual as possible. Students in class activities discussing current events shall be afforded their constitutional freedom of expression.

SEC. 6. *Capacity Building.* — The DepEd shall carry out the appropriate training for teachers and educators on handling Current Events discussions as well as provide them with adequate and relevant instructional materials, in order to develop and enhance their capacity to teach the subject.

SEC. 7. *Whole-of-School Approach.* — For the effective institutionalization and teaching of Current Events, a whole school approach shall be adopted. This shall facilitate collaborative action in and by the school community and other stakeholders for a complete and inclusive understanding of the culinary heritage.

SEC. 8. *Procurement of Materials.* — Schools shall be required to procure subscriptions to materials discussing Current Events for the consumption of the students, which includes, but is not limited to, newspapers, magazines, and periodicals.

SEC. 9. *Annual Review and Assessment.* — The DepEd shall conduct an annual review of the integration of Current Events in the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum to ensure its proper implementation and assess student learning outcomes for the purpose of determining its efficacy.

The report shall be submitted to the Committees on Basic Education of both houses of Congress within thirty (30) days from the termination of the period of review and assessment.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Agency.* — The DepEd shall be the lead agency in implementing the provisions of this act.

SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* — Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* — If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clauses.* — All laws, decrees, rules, executive orders, and other administrative issuances and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, superseded or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

