



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8737

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BY REPRESENTATIVES GARCIA (J.E.), ROMULO, GO (M.), GERON, NIETO AND DALIPE, PER  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 754

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**AN ACT**  
**REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF OFF-CAMPUS EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**  
**BY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Off-Campus  
2 *Education Act.*”  
3

4           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is declared the policy of the State to  
5 establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of  
6 education relevant to the needs of the people. It is likewise the policy of the State to  
7 protect, foster and promote the right of all citizens to affordable quality education at  
8 all levels. Consistent with these policies, the State recognizes the authority of basic  
9 and higher education institutions to adopt learning delivery strategies that integrate  
10 relevant off-campus educational activities with regular classroom instructional  
11 programs to broaden and supplement the learning opportunity.  
12

13           Learning outside the confines of the classroom diminishes the security  
14 provided by its walls and subjects learners to safety concerns inherent in an exposed  
15 learning environment. The State shall therefore prescribe the framework within which  
16 these off-campus educational activities may be undertaken to ensure a more  
17 meaningful learning experience in an ecosystem that advances the utmost safety  
18 and well-being of learners.  
19

20           **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:  
21

22           (a) *Curricular activities* refer to required off-campus educational activities and  
23 are an integral part of the instructional program;  
24

25           (b) *Institution* refers to any public or private school offering basic education  
26 program or higher or technical education;  
27

28           (c) *Non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities* refer to  
29 off-campus activities that may or may not be anchored on standard curriculum

1 and are considered non-program based activities but are deemed relevant and  
2 desirable to broaden the opportunity for learning;

3  
4 (d) *Off-campus educational activities* refer to curricular and non-curricular  
5 activities undertaken outside the premises of the institution; and

6  
7 (e) *Service providers* refer to educational tour and/or transport operators  
8 offering their services for a consideration.

9  
10 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to all local off-campus non-  
11 curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular educational activities undertaken by  
12 public and private educational institutions under the supervision of the Department of  
13 Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

14  
15 **SEC. 5. Conditions for Off-Campus Non-Curricular, Co-Curricular and Extra-  
16 Curricular Educational Activities.** – No off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular and  
17 extra-curricular educational activities shall be undertaken unless they are:

18  
19 (a) relevant and aligned with the educational competencies of the curriculum;  
20 or

21  
22 (b) necessary to the acquisition of relevant knowledge, skills, and values of  
23 the learners.

24  
25 Participation in any off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular  
26 activities shall be voluntary and in no case shall the inability to participate in the off-  
27 campus activity constitute a failure to complete any requirement or in any way put  
28 the learner at a disadvantage.

29  
30 **SEC. 6. Accreditation of Venues and Destinations.** – The DepEd and CHED,  
31 in consultation with the Department of Tourism, National Museum of the Philippines,  
32 National Historical Commission of the Philippines, National Commission for Culture  
33 and the Arts, the local government units (LGUs) and other relevant government  
34 agencies, shall separately accredit the venues, destinations, and activities where the  
35 educational institutions under their respective jurisdictions may conduct, hold, or  
36 participate in off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities.  
37 In accrediting off-campus venues, destinations and activities, the respective  
38 agencies shall consider the following:

39  
40 (a) Suitability of the venue, place or activity in relation to the program  
41 requirement and learning objectives;

42  
43 (b) Carrying capacity of the venue or place to ensure the accommodation of  
44 learners, optimize the learning experience, and minimize adverse social and  
45 environmental impact;

46  
47 (c) Sufficiency of amenities and other facilities for the comfort and  
48 convenience of the learners; and

49  
50 (d) Adequacy of protective protocols on site to ensure the security and safety  
51 of the learners.

1 The list of accredited venues and destinations shall be published in the  
2 website of the DepEd and CHED and shall be updated as the DepEd and CHED  
3 consider necessary and appropriate.  
4

5 Only venues, destinations, and activities accredited pursuant to this section  
6 may be considered by educational institutions in planning for and in implementing  
7 off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular educational activities.  
8

9 **SEC. 7. *Promulgation of Policies and Guidelines for Off-Campus Non-***  
10 ***Curricular, Co-Curricular or Extra-Curricular Educational Activities.*** – The DepEd and  
11 CHED shall separately promulgate specific policies and guidelines for the guidance  
12 of educational institutions, learners, parents or guardians, and other stakeholders  
13 involved in the implementation of off-campus educational activities. The policies and  
14 guidelines shall include the following:  
15

16 (a) Design of the off-campus activities with due regard to the educational  
17 value or curriculum enhancement, or other learning objectives sought to be  
18 achieved, and taking into consideration the academic freedom of institutions of  
19 higher learning: *Provided*, That alternative or parallel activities shall be prepared for  
20 learners who are unable to participate in off-campus educational activities;  
21

22 (b) Coordination arrangements such as consultation with parents or  
23 guardians, provision of transportation, accommodation and other logistical  
24 requirements;  
25

26 (c) Security and safety protocols including appropriate arrangements for  
27 participants with disabilities or special needs;  
28

29 (d) Engagement of service providers or event coordinators;  
30

31 (e) Involvement, participation of, or coordination with LGUs and law  
32 enforcement agencies;  
33

34 (f) Post-activity debriefing and reporting requirements; and  
35

36 (g) Matters as the DepEd or CHED shall deem necessary to ensure a  
37 meaningful, convenient, and safe conduct of off-campus educational activities.  
38

39 **SEC. 8. *Outsourcing of Services for Off-Campus Non-Curricular,***  
40 ***Co-Curricular or Extra-Curricular Activities.*** – The conduct of off-campus educational  
41 activities shall primarily utilize the resources and transport equipment of the  
42 educational institutions concerned. In case of absence or inadequacy of such  
43 resources and equipment, educational institutions may outsource their needs from  
44 accredited service providers: *Provided*, That the overall responsibility for the off-  
45 campus activity shall remain with the educational institution: *Provided, further*, That  
46 the service provider shall not be relieved of any responsibility in case of failure to  
47 exercise the degree of care and vigilance required under the circumstances:  
48 *Provided, finally*, That in no case shall the off-campus activity be left to the control  
49 and management of the service provider.

1 The DepEd and CHED shall, in consultation with the Department of Tourism,  
2 Department of Transportation, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory  
3 Board, and other relevant government agencies, accredit service providers as  
4 defined under Section 3(e) of this Act under such terms and conditions as they shall  
5 separately prescribe pursuant to this section, including the following:

6  
7 (a) Technical and financial capability;

8  
9 (b) Experience and track record; and

10  
11 (c) Road, sea or airworthiness of transport equipment; *Provided*, That in case  
12 of land transportation, the vehicle shall not be more than ten (10) years old from date  
13 of manufacture.

14  
15 No educational institution shall engage a service provider unless the same is  
16 duly accredited by the DepEd or CHED, as the case may be.

17  
18 The expenses to be incurred in the conduct of off-campus educational  
19 activities shall primarily be borne by the learners, subject to consultation with the  
20 parents or guardians: *Provided*, That assistance from LGUs, institutional sponsors,  
21 and other well-meaning benefactors may be solicited and accepted by the  
22 educational institutions.

23  
24 **SEC. 9. Penal Provisions.** – Any violation of the provisions of this Act, after  
25 due notice and hearing, shall be penalized by the DepEd or CHED as herein  
26 provided:

27  
28 (a) An educational institution which conducts off-campus non-curricular,  
29 co-curricular or extra-curricular educational activities outside those off-campus  
30 venues and destinations as may be identified and accredited by the DepEd or  
31 CHED, or which engages the services of a service provider not accredited by the  
32 DepEd or CHED, or an employee of an educational institution who shall conduct or  
33 organize an off-campus non-curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activity  
34 without the expressed written consent of the educational institution where the  
35 participating learners belong, shall be punished by:

36  
37 (i) a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) for the first offense; and

38  
39 (ii) a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) and suspension of  
40 all off-campus educational activities for not less than six (6) months, for the second  
41 offense.

42  
43 If the educational institution is a public school, college or university, the fine  
44 shall be imposed against the school head, principal, superintendent, or president,  
45 and other officials directly responsible for the violation;

46  
47 (b) A service provider who, by reason of failure to exercise the degree of care  
48 and vigilance required by law or that justly demanded by the circumstances, causes  
49 loss, damage, or injury to the participants of the off-campus educational activity shall  
50 be punished by:

1 (i) a fine of One hundred fifty thousand pesos (P150,000.00) and suspension  
2 of accreditation for one year for the first offense; and

3  
4 (ii) a fine of Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00) and revocation of  
5 accreditation for the second offense.

6  
7 The fines herein imposed shall be without prejudice to any administrative,  
8 civil, and criminal liabilities, which the educational institutions, service providers and  
9 their respective officials and employees may be answerable to under the Civil Code,  
10 the Revised Penal Code, and other laws, rules and regulations. No waiver of action  
11 or liability executed by the learners, their parents or guardians prior to the activity  
12 shall operate to exonerate any educational institution, service provider, or their  
13 officials and employees from a cause of action arising from the conduct of off-  
14 campus activity.

15  
16 **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The DepEd and CHED shall,  
17 in consultation and coordination with appropriate national government agencies,  
18 LGUs, and other stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for  
19 the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

20  
21 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason, any part or provision of this  
22 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions not affected  
23 shall remain in full force and effect.

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25 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive  
26 orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
27 are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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29 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
30 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

31  
32 Approved,