



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**Twentieth Congress**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2311**



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Introduced by **Representative Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Second World War remains one of the most consequential and transformative chapters in Philippine history. It was during this period that the Filipino people, faced with extreme hardship and foreign occupation, demonstrated unparalleled courage, resilience, and patriotism. From the defense of Bataan and Corregidor, to the struggles of guerrilla resistance fighters and the sacrifices of ordinary civilians, World War II left an indelible mark on our national identity and collective memory.

Despite the historical significance of this era, the study of the Philippines during World War II has become increasingly marginalized in our educational system, particularly in higher education. Many students graduate from college with limited knowledge of the heroism of our veterans, the atrocities endured by civilians, and the enduring lessons of this pivotal time in our nation's past.

This bill seeks to address that gap by mandating the integration of a comprehensive study of Philippine history during World War II into the existing Philippine History subject under the general education curriculum in all higher education institutions (HEIs). The measure aims to deepen historical awareness, foster national pride, and promote a culture of remembrance and civic responsibility among today's youth.

The bill entrusts the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)—in close coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office of the Department of National Defense (PVAO-DND)—to develop and implement this initiative. It also encourages HEIs to ensure that books, reference materials, and other educational resources on World War II in the Philippine context are available in their libraries and accessible to students.

By ensuring that future generations understand the heroism and hardship of those who came before them, this measure strengthens the foundation of patriotism, critical thinking, and historical consciousness in Philippine society. It also pays long-overdue tribute to the bravery and sacrifices of our war veterans and resistance fighters.

During the 19th Congress, the House of Representatives passed this bill on third and final reading.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate and favorable passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Garcia', written in a cursive style.



30 All HEIs are encouraged to keep in their libraries adequate books, resources, and  
31 reference materials on World War II as it transpired in the Philippines.  
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33 **SEC. 3.** Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the  
34 CHED shall, in coordination with the NHCP and the PVAO-DND, formulate and issue  
35 the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act. Other  
36 government entities may be tapped jointly by the principals as resource or advisory  
37 groups in this undertaking.  
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39 Resource persons such as prominent historians, history professors, members of  
40 historical associations, college or university presidents or administrators, faculty  
41 members and students may also be invited jointly by CHED, the NHCP and the PVAO-  
42 DND to participate.  
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44 **SEC. 4.** If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional  
45 invalid, the other provisions not affected, shall remain in full force and effect.  
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47 **SEC. 5.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, memorandum orders, memorandum  
48 circulars, administrative orders, ordinances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with  
49 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.  
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51 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
52 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.  
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54 Approved,  
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