

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

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session**

House Bill No. 4793



Introduced by **HON. IGNACIO T. ARROYO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

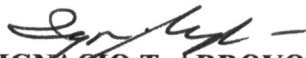
Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all."

The growing problem of classroom shortage in our country has become a perennial problem in our education system that it is imperative to address this issue once and for all. The undersigned author has crafted a bill that intends to provide a comprehensive program with the end in view of solving this social malady that would ultimately provide quality education to every Filipino student, most especially the underprivileged.

At present, the national classroom-student ratio for elementary and secondary public schools is at staggering 1:65, due largely to the free education program, which has not been met by a corresponding increase in the number of classrooms.

The declining quality education in our country is quite alarming. Based on surveys conducted recently, one of the reasons cited for this is due to the overcrowded students inside the classroom. With an average of 65 students in one classroom, it is practically impossible for the students to concentrate on lessons at hand and for the teachers to monitor the development of each student. More over, the environment is likewise not conducive for learning.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL SITES AND THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, REHABILITATION, AND REPAIR OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “School Building Program Act of 2004”.

SEC. 2. *School Building Program Objectives.* – There shall be established a comprehensive and continuing School Building Program, hereinafter referred to as the “Program”, which shall have the following objectives:

1. To provide a system for an accurate inventory of all existing public primary and secondary school buildings, with proper

indications as to its location, size, capacity, condition, and compliance with basic building safety requirements;

2. To provide appropriate studies for determining the yearly school building requirements based on projected increases in enrollment and other appropriate indicators;
3. To provide for the effective monitoring and supervision of all school building facilities with respect to its proper and adequate maintenance, replacement, rehabilitation and repair
4. To provide a comprehensive plan for the acquisition and/or construction and adequate school sites, buildings and facilities for all public elementary and secondary schools nationwide, with the aim of reducing the classroom-students ratio to an ideal proportion within a period of five (5) years upon approval of this Act;
5. To provide the mechanism for the selection of public schools to prioritize in the school-building projects nationwide;
6. To provide a specific time schedule for the construction of school buildings which shall be strictly followed so as to prevent unnecessary delays and backlogs;
7. To provide for necessary mechanisms which will facilitate a closer coordination between the Department of Budget and Management, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Interior and Local Government, and

Department of Education, Culture and Sports to expedite the implementation of the Program;

8. To formulate guidelines for the bidding procedures that will be used for the school building program including that of the contractual arrangement schemes;
9. To provide for a definite work and financial schedule for the construction, operation and maintenance of school buildings under any of the contractual arrangement schemes.

SEC. 3. *Inter-Agency Committee.* – To formulate and ensure the effective implementation of the program, there is hereby created an inter-agency committee, to be headed by the Secretary of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) as Chairperson, and the respective Secretaries of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), as members. The committee shall within one (1) year from the approval of this Act, submit to the Committee on Education of both houses of Congress and every year thereafter, the comprehensive school-building program herein established

SEC. 4. *Implementation of the Program.* – Consistent with the provisions of Republic Act No. 7880, otherwise known as the “Fair and Equitable Access to Education Act”, the Committee shall determine and supervise

the acquisition and/or construction of priority school building projects to be implemented by the DECS as provided in the Program. The DECS is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with duly pre-qualified private contractors for the design and construction management, as well as the financing, construction, operation, maintenance of school buildings through the build operate and transfer, build and transfer, build-lease and transfer rehabilitate-operate and transfer and other contractual arrangement schemes provided under R.A. No. 6957.

SEC. 5. *Release of Maintenance and Other Operating Expenditures.* –

For the purpose of ensuring compliance of such contractual arrangement as may hereinafter be entered, the appropriation of DECS for the School Building Program and for Maintenance and other Operating Expenditures shall be directly released to DECS according to the work and financial schedule stipulated in the program .

SEC. 6. *Appropriation.* The amount necessary to attain the objectives of this Act shall be authorized to be appropriated out of the unallocated share of the national government in the income of the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), for a period of five (5) years.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of laws, orders, decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following publication in one (1) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,