

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. NO. 785

Introduced by Representative Aurelio "Dong" D. Gonzales, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The opening of classes once again focuses our attention on the need to provide adequate protection to students in institutions of learning.

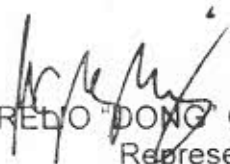
While we consider school as the second home of our children, school administrations have often neglected to provide them with even basic facilities necessary for their health and safety.

Clean water and comfort rooms have always been a problem. These must be addressed to prevent illnesses which hampers the education of our children.

The bill seeks to address the situation by requiring a yearly inspection of school facilities by a team composed of the school administration, representatives of the parents, the student council and health and education authorities.

The bill further provides that a school shall not be allowed to increase its tuition fees unless such inspection is conducted and there be substantial compliance to the recommendation of the inspection team.

With the passage of this bill, we hope to provide our children a healthy learning environment.


AURELIO "DONG" GONZALES, JR.
Representative
3rd District, Pampanga

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**AN ACT
REQUIRING MANDATORY SCHOOL INSPECTIONS TO PROTECT THE
HEALTH AND SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as "Healthy Learning Environment
Act"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy – The 1987 Constitution states that "The
State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health
consciousness among them".

SEC. 3. Notwithstanding any laws to the contrary, schools of all levels and
training institutions are hereby required to conduct a yearly inspection of facilities
relevant to the health and safety of the students and their teaching and non-
teaching personnel, such as, but not limited to the following: water supply
system, comfort rooms, cafeterias and restaurants and fire exits.

SEC. 4. The yearly inspection shall be conducted by a team composed of
representatives of the following:

- a) school administration
- b) parent organization
- c) student council
- d) local or national health authorities

e) Department of Education or the Commission on Higher Education, as the case maybe.

SEC. 5. The team shall conduct their inspection based on existing health and sanitation laws and guidelines and shall make the necessary recommendation to the school administration and government agencies concerned.

SEC. 6. No application for any tuition fee increase shall be approved by the Department of Education or the Commission on Higher Education unless a report of the said yearly inspection is submitted and substantial compliance to the recommendation of the teams is instituted by the school administration.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within one hundred eighty (180) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education shall jointly formulate with parents organizations and other concerned agencies.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is found unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the unaffected provisions shall not be affected.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,