

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2478

INTRODUCED BY: HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings of higher learning by calling upon colleges and universities to report information on the level of fire safety on their campuses to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and to the public.

This legislation will help parents to identify schools that set a strong emphasis on fire safety. When selecting a school, students and parents must also consider the school's track record when it comes to fire safety. The Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act will provide them with the vital information they need in making a decision.



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AN ACT
TO PROVIDE FOR DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND MEASURES
WITH RESPECT TO CAMPUS BUILDINGS

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act of 2010".

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. - The following terms as used in this Act shall be defined as follows:

- (1) "Chairman" refers to the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education;
- (2) "CHED" refers to the Commission on Higher Education.

SECTION 3. Disclosure of Fire Safety of Campus Buildings. -

(1) Fire Safety Reports Required – Each eligible institution participating in any program under this title shall beginning in academic year 2011-2012, and each year thereafter, prepare, publish, and distribute, through appropriate publications or mailings, to all current students and employees, and to any applicant for enrollment or employment upon request, an annual fire safety report containing at least the following information with respect to the campus fire safety practices and standards of that institution:

(a) A statement that identifies each student housing facility of the institution, and whether or not that facility is equipped with a fire sprinkler system or other fire safety systems, or both.

(b) Statistics concerning the occurrence on campus, during the 2 preceeding calendar years for which data are available, of fires and false fire alarms in student housing facilities.

(c) For each such occurrence, a statement of the human injuries or deaths and the structural damage caused by the occurrence.

(d) Information regarding fire alarms, smoke alarms, the presence of adequate fire escape planning or protocols, rules on portable electrical appliances, smoking and open flames (such as candles), regular mandatory supervised fire drills, and planned and future improvement in fire safety.

(2) Rule of Construction. - Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to

authorize the Chairman to require particular policies, procedures, or practices by institutions of higher education with respect to fire safety.

(3) Reports. - Each institution participating in any program under this title shall make periodic reports to the campus community on fires and false fire alarms that are reported to local fire departments in a manner that will aid the prevention of similar occurrences.

(4) Reports to the Chairman - On an annual basis, each institution participating in any program under this title shall submit to the Secretary a copy of the statistics required to be made available under paragraph (1) (B). The Chairman shall:

- (a) Review such statistics;
- (b) Make copies of the statistics submitted to the Chairman available to the public; and
- (c) In coordination with representatives of institutions of higher education, identify exemplary fire safety policies, procedures, and practices and dissemination information concerning those policies, procedures, and practices that have proven effective in the reduction of campus fires.

SECTION 4. Report to Congress by the Chairman of CHED. - Within one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act, the Chairman shall prepare and submit to the Congress a report containing:

(1) An analysis of the current status of fire safety systems in college and university facilities, including sprinkler systems;

(2) An analysis of the appropriate fire safety standards to apply to these facilities, which the Chairman shall prepare after consultation with such fire safety experts, representatives of institutions of higher education, and other government agencies as the Chairman, considers appropriate;

(3) An estimate of the cost of bringing all non-forming dormitories and other campus buildings up to current new building codes; and

(4) Recommendations from the Chairman concerning the best means of meeting fire safety standards in all college facilities, including recommendations for methods to fund such cost.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. - All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations and/or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.