

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3400

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Introduced by the Honorable Nur G. Jaafar

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Regional and provincial educational reforms must reflect the national government's serious effort to address the issue of Islamization which is a serious concern of the Muslim communities worldwide and in some, dramatized by extreme radicalism.

The bills aims to provide government assistance to the Madrasah Education System. There is a need to strengthen and develop the Madrasah system of education to make it more accessible, relevant and reflective of oral traditions that weave the Muslim's Philippine heritage.

The Constitution mandates that we must protect and promote the rights of all citizens to quality education at all levels. Further, the Constitution is clear in its directive that the System of Education to be established, maintained and supported should be relevant to the needs of the people and society, hence; it has also a responsibility to strengthen and develop our Madrasah Education System in Muslim Mindanao and other Muslim-populated regions in the archipelago.

This bill, which will strengthen and develop the Madrasah system, is one way of bridging the gap between Muslims and the Christian majority. The bill provides for the following: infrastructure development, nutrition and feeding programs, classroom facilities, textbook assistance funds, scholarship grants, education loan fund, in-service training fund for teachers, and scholarship grants to children of teachers.

Approval of the bill is earnestly urged.



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**AN ACT**  
**STRENGTHENING THE MADRASAH EDUCATION SYSTEM BY PROVIDING**  
**GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO MADRASAH EDUCATION,**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the 'Fund Assistance to Madrasah Education'.

**SECTION 2.** Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to promote and make quality education accessible to the Filipino people regardless of cultural origin, conviction, creed or belief. The State also recognizes the complementary roles of public and private educational institutions in the country's educational system and the invaluable contribution of private educational institutions to educate its citizenry, and this includes the Madrasah Schools in Muslim Mindanao and other areas in the country where Muslim population abounds.

The state shall also, as a matter of policy, establish a fund for Madrasah Infrastructure Development, apart from maintaining a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, teacher development program, subsidies and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students especially to the underprivileged. Further, the State shall encourage non-formal, informal and indigenous learning systems as well as self-learning, particularly those that respond to community needs. The dynamics of oral literatures and traditions shall be considered.

For this purpose, the State shall mandate the Department of Education (DepEd), in close coordination with National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), to provide mechanisms that will improve the quality of Madrasah education as well as open the opportunity of more Muslim students benefiting said educational system by maximizing the use of existing resources of private education, recognizing in the process the government's responsibility to provide education to its people.

*SECTION 3. Madrasah Curriculum.* The Madrasah curriculum shall be enriched and harmonized to make it compatible with the curriculum of the formal education system. Equivalency, learning accreditation, experience-based learning and other innovative education approaches shall be utilized in order to make possible the smooth transition of learners from the madrasah education system to the formal education system and vice-versa.

*SECTION 4. Criteria for Assistance.* The programs for assistance shall be based on a set of criteria which shall include, among others, tuition fees charged by the schools, the socio-economic needs of the students, giving priority to those who come from the poorest sector of society, overall performance of the schools, the academic qualifications and the financial needs of both students and teachers.

In addition, the students who may qualify scholarship assistance in Madrasah schools can continue to study in higher education institution. Provided that they pass the minimum requirement of said program.

*SECTION 5. Forms of Assistance.* For purposes of this Act, apart from Infrastructure Development, programs and assistance to students and teachers in Madrasah schools shall consist of the following:

1. Nutrition and Feeding Program for Young Children;
2. Classroom facilities such as desks, tables, chalkboards and other basic classroom needs;
3. Textbook Assistance Fund;
4. Scholarship grants to deserving students;
5. Education loan fund;
6. In-service training fund for teachers; and
7. Scholarship grants for children of teachers.

*SECTION 6. Funding.* The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be provided in the General Appropriation Act (GAA) in the amount of five hundred million pesos (P 500,000,000.00) and shall be charged under the current appropriations of the Department of Education.

*SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of Education (DepEd), in close coordination with the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), shall issue rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

*SECTION 8. Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or consistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

*SECTION 9.* Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

*SECTION 10.* Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,