



Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4238

Introduced by Honorable Victor F. Ortega

EXPLANATORY NOTE

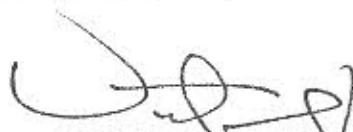
This bill seeks to create in the Department of Education (DepEd) the plantilla position of guidance counselor in every public elementary school division.

Republic Act No. 9258, otherwise known as the "*Guidance and Counseling Act of 2004*," provides for the professionalization of the practice of guidance and counselling. It promotes the improvement, advancement and protection of the guidance and counselling services profession.

The guidance counselor plays an indispensable role in facilitating communication among students, teachers, administrators and parents. They offer consultation and counseling for the students and program coordination for the school. Most importantly, the guidance counselor focuses on the academic, personal and social developmental stages of the students.

The DepEd has guidance counselor positions only for the secondary level. In the elementary level, the teacher-in-charge serves as the guidance counselor and acts as adviser to the students. However, the teacher-in-charge does not have the expertise of a professional guidance counselor which can help in the academic and social stability of the students especially during their formative years. With an accredited guidance counselor, we hope to improve the survival rate of enrollees in basic education and this will help us meet the Millennium Development Goal on Primary Education.

In view thereof, passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


VICTOR F. ORTEGA



Fifteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. 1238

Introduced by Honorable Victor F. Ortega

AN ACT
CREATING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE
PLANTILLA POSITION OF GUIDANCE COUNSELOR IN EVERY
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Department of Education is hereby mandated to create the plantilla position of guidance counselor in every public elementary school division.

SEC. 2. The salary grade of guidance counselors shall be equivalent to the salary grade of head teachers.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Education. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.