

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
2nd Regular Session)

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
House Bill No. 4881

Introduced by: MA. THERESA B. BONOAN-DAVID
4th District, City of Manila

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite our long experience with the wet or rainy season in the Philippines, our country seems to be suffering the same complications of heavy rains year in and out. Although we have always been a tropical country, environmental changes, increasing population and faulty planning have aggravated the situation. As the academic school year begins in June, monsoon downpours impede the continuation of school in all levels, resulting in loss of school days. Aside from placing undue pressure on parents and students, this loss also places pressure on teachers to finish the required curriculum in a shorter amount of time.

This bill addresses the situation by moving the regular academic school year from June until March the following year, to September until June the following year. It also changes the "summer" school season from April until May to July until August. The bill also prescribes the formation of a special curriculum or set of courses designed specifically to be used on days when classes are suspended for unforeseen reasons.

In this manner, the loss school days due to inclement weather is mitigated, and whatever "lost" days are suffered during the modified school year are put to effective use by students through the special curriculum.

Early cognizance of this bill is earnestly sought.

MA. THERESA BONOAN-DAVID
4th District, City of Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
House Bill No. 4881

Introduced by: MA. THERESA B. BONOAN-DAVID
4th District, City of Manila

AN ACT
TO MODIFY THE ACADEMIC SCHOOLYEAR FROM JUNE UNTIL
MARCH TO SEPTEMBER UNTIL JUNE, PRESCRIBING A SET OF
COURSES ADAPTED TO THE RAINY SEASON,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. The regular academic school year of public and private educational institutions in the primary, secondary and tertiary levels beginning in June and ending in March is hereby modified to commence from September to end in the month of June, provided that, this modification shall not apply to educational institutions following a different academic school year.

Section 2. Where applicable, non-regular classes held during the months of April and May shall now be held in the months of July and August.

Section 3. In preparing the curriculum for the school year, heads of schools and teachers in the primary and secondary level are hereby directed to formulate a set of courses for the rainy season designed to be used on days when classes are suspended due to inclement weather or such other unforeseen circumstances. This set of courses may consist of exercises, reading assignments, projects, or other tasks relevant to the regular curriculum which may be performed by students at home.

Heads of schools and teachers at the tertiary level are encouraged to prescribe a course outline of assigned readings which the student may follow in case of suspended classes.

Section 4. Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation for the academic school year following its effectivity.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Separability Clause. - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

Section 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved.