

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1184



INTRODUCED BY HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philosopher and economist Adam Smith defined four types of fixed capital: the useful machines, buildings as the means of procuring revenue, improvements of land, and human capital. With regard to the latter, he stated that the economic development of a nation is a function of the quality of its education; in other words, the more and better educated a people, the greater the chances of economic development.

Based on his pronouncement, it takes little effort to pinpoint the root of the problems hounding the Philippines today.

The pitiful state of Philippine public education is much lamented. Whenever a new school year opens, the media expose a host of problems encountered by the students and parents ranging from the lack of facilities such as classrooms and restrooms to the awful quality of textbooks. And yet these problems seem to worsen every year, complicated by the fact that there is a steady rate of increase in public school population annually while the allocated resources stay the same, if not decreased due to factors such as decrepitude.

To address this gargantuan problem, meaningful educational reforms should start at the grassroots or community level since the local government units are more aware of the concerns of their respective jurisdictions. And one way of harnessing the local government units' resources and potential to remedy the situation is through the strengthening of the local school boards.

Created by virtue of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as "The Local Government Code of 1991," the local school board is a special body whose main duty is to allocate the Special Education Fund or SEF (an additional 1% levy collected together with real property taxes paid to the local government) to meet the supplementary needs of the local public school system. It is composed of local members defined in RA 7160.

To make the LSB's more responsive to the needs of the local public school system, this bill seeks to introduce amendments to pertinent sections in RA 7160 in regards to the composition of membership, functions and budget allocation considerations of the LSB's. When implemented, these reforms would enable the local school boards to function more efficiently with the inclusion of a representative from an accredited nongovernmental organization or people's organization involved in non-formal education and training programs, and the broadening of its responsibilities to include the site selection of public schools, among others.

In light of the aforementioned, passage of this bill is of paramount importance and is earnestly sought.

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTIONS 98, 99 AND 100 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"

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

SECTION 1. Section 98 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", hereinafter referred to as the Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 98. Creation, Composition, and Compensation. – (a) xxx.

(a) The composition of local school boards shall be as follows:

- (1) The provincial board shall be composed of the governor and the division superintendent of schools as co-chairman of the education committee of the sangguniang panlalawigan, the provincial treasurer, the representative of the pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan in the sangguniang panlalawigan, the duly elected president of the provincial federation of parent's-teachers' associations, the duly elected representative of the teachers' organizations in the province, [and] duly elected representative of the non-academic personnel of public schools in the province AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ACCREDITED NONGOVERNMENTAL OR PEOPLES' ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS, as members.
- (2) The city school board shall be composed of the City Mayor and the City Superintendent of schools as co-chairmen; the chairman of the education committee of the sangguniang panlungsod, the city treasurer, the representative of the pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan in the sangguniang panlungsod, the duly elected president of the city federation of parent-teacher associations, the duly elected representative of the teachers' organizations in the city, [and] the duly elected representative of the non-academic personnel of public schools in the city AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ACCREDITED NONGOVERNMENTAL OR PEOPLES' ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS, as members.

- (3) The municipal school board shall be composed of the municipal mayor and the district supervisor of schools as co-chairmen of the education committee of the sangguniang bayan, the municipal treasurer, the representative of the pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan in the sangguniang bayan, the duly elected president of the municipal federation of parent-teacher associations, the duly elected representative of the teachers' organizations in the municipality, [and] the duly elected representatives of the non-academic personnel of public schools in the municipality AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ACCREDITED NONGOVERNMENTAL OR PEOPLES' ORGANIZATION INVOLVED IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS, as members.

x x x

SEC. 2. Section 99 of the Code hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 99. Functions of Local School Boards. – The provincial, city or municipal school board shall:

x x x

(c) Serve as an advisory committee to the sanggunian concerned on educational matters such as, but not limited to, the necessity for and the uses of local appropriations for educational purposes; [and]

(d) Recommend changes in the names of public schools within the territorial jurisdiction of the local government until for enactment by the sanggunian concerned;

(e) FORMULATE THE SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SANGGUNIAN CONCERNED; AND

(f) UNDERTAKE THE SITE SELECTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The Department of Education shall consult the local school board on the appointment of division superintendents, district supervisors, school principals, and other school officials.

Sec. 3. Section 100 of the Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 100 Meetings and Quorum; Budget. – (a) The local school board shall meet at least once a month or as often as may be necessary.

x x x

(c) The annual school board budget shall give priority to, AMONG OTHERS, the following:

- (1) Construction, repair, and maintenance of school buildings and other facilities of public elementary and secondary schools;
- (2) Establishment and maintenance of extension classes AND/OR REMEDIAL CLASSES where necessary; [and]
- (3) Sports activities at the division, district, municipal, and barangay levels [.]
- (4) ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL SITES AND OTHER SCHOOL PROPERTIES OR FACILITIES;

- (5) PAYMENT OF SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND OTHER REMUNERATIONS OF TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL; AND
- (6) OTHER EDUCATION RELATED PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.

Sec. 4. All laws, decrees, orders rules and regulations and all other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 5. If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.