



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **2109**



Introduced by Honorable Victor F. Ortega

EXPLANATORY NOTE

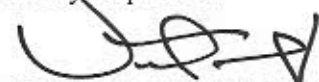
This bill seeks to create in the Department of Education (DepEd) the plantilla position of guidance counselor in every public elementary school division.

Republic Act No. 9258, otherwise known as the "Guidance and Counseling Act of 2004," provides for the professionalization of the practice of guidance counseling. It promotes the improvement, advancement and protection of the guidance and counseling 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 development stages of the students.

However, the DepEd has guidance counselor positions only for the secondary level in all high schools. 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 in our 215 public elementary school divisions in the country, we hope to improve the survival rate of enrollees in the basic education and this will help us meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on Primary Education by 2015 and even for the MDG Post 2015.

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


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

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,