

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill Number **5722**



Introduced by Representative ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines' location along the Pacific Ring of Fire and close to the equator makes it prone to natural disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. It is therefore of paramount concern to equip our children with necessary skills that can save their lives.

Educating our children with safety measures in the event natural and man-made disasters through awareness and participatory learning promotes a culture of safety and resilience.

By mandating the regular annual conduct of disaster risk drills and instruction in all educational institutions, we are recognizing every child's right to survival and protection, as well as to education and protection. We are also strengthening the response preparedness of our learning institutions.

Immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE REGULAR CONDUCT OF DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION DRILLS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

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

Section 1. **Statement of Policy.** The State recognizes the importance of education in reducing disaster risks, increasing safety and resilience through participatory learning and formal school-based interventions. Towards this end, the State shall integrate disaster risk reduction learning in all levels of education throughout the country by conducting annual regular drills and instruction.

Section 2. Risk Reduction Drills in Educational Institutions.

- a. Risk reduction drills shall be held annually in all educational institutions throughout the country in coordination with the schools' respective local government units;
- b. The drills shall include practice and instruction concerning the location, use and operation of emergency exits, fire escapes, extinguishers and other facilities provided for such purpose in buildings, as well as the proper evacuation of persons from buildings in the event of fires, earthquake and other hazardous phenomena.
- c. Risk reduction drills shall include complete evacuation of all persons from the building, if necessary. Teachers and personnel shall be trained in assisting students in the evacuation of a building in times of disasters.

- d. Reports of all risk reduction drills shall be filed with the respective Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) of each region, giving the time and date of each drill held.

Section 3. **Implementing Agencies.** The Department of Education (DepEd) and its regional and district offices, in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and the Department of Interior and Local Government, shall ensure the implementation of this Act.

Section 4. **Penalties.** Any officer or employee of the educational institution, who refuses or fails to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be given a warning for the first offense, a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) for the second offense; a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one month, but not more than six months, or both, at the discretion of the court, for the third offense.

Section 5. **Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section . **Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,