

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 605



Introduced by Representative EDGAR R. ERICE

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN ALL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS OF THE PHILIPPINES PURSUANT TO THE AVOWED OBJECTIVES OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT ENHANCING THE PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM BY STRENGTHENING ITS CURRICULUM AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF YEARS FOR BASIC EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As recently as 2013 before Republic Act No. 10533 (Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013) was enacted, the Philippines was one of only three countries in the world, the other two being Angola and Djibouti, and the only one in Asia, which continue to prescribe ten (10) years of basic education for its children and youth.

Ten years of basic education has long been considered as insufficient to provide the world's young people with time for mastery of concepts and skills, or for development as lifelong learners, or for preparation into graduates of tertiary education. It has also been recognized that at least twelve (12) years of basic education is needed by the youth for middle level skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship.¹ Thus, most countries therefore require an additional two (2) years of senior high school to attain the said objectives.

The previous administration decided that it was high time for the Philippines to upgrade the quality of education that it provides to its constituents so that the people can develop skills that would enable them to be competitive not only within the country, but more importantly, in the international arena.

This proposed measure specifically seeks to provide an instrument to transform into reality the vision embodied in RA 10533 of providing Filipino citizens an educational system at par with international standards like the Bologna Process

¹ The K to 12 Basic Education Program. Retrieved 6 November 2013 from <http://www.gov.ph/k-12/>.

for the European Union and the Washington Accord for the United States. This can be achieved by providing for the construction and establishment of Senior High Schools in all legislative districts of the country. Within the walls of these Senior High Schools, young Filipinos would gain two (2) years of specialized upper secondary education, based on their aptitude and interests, and the capacity of the school, that would allow them to have middle-level skills and offer them better opportunities to be gainfully employed or become entrepreneurs.²

The first batch of junior high school students under the K to 12 program graduated this summer, with the Department of Education saying that the number of enrollees for senior high school this school year reached One Million Three Hundred Thousand (1,300,000)³. These new enrollees would need the specialized classrooms of the proposed Senior High Schools.

Assuming that there would be at least forty-five (45) students per classroom, the country needs to build at least 22,000 classrooms in time for school year 2016-2017 and an additional 22,000 more classrooms for school year 2017-2018. Based on the DepEd estimate of Seven Hundred Thirty Thousand Pesos (Php730,000.00) cost of building a classroom,⁴ we would need at least Fourteen Billion Six Hundred Million Pesos (Php14,600,000,000.00) for 2016 and another Fourteen Billion Six Hundred Million Pesos (Php14,600,000,000.00) for 2017.

Given the magnitude of the needs of the Philippines in the coming years, it would only inure to our benefit if we were adhere to the principle that there is no better time than today to start preparing for the future of our country.

In the light of the foregoing discussion, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDGAR R. ERICE
Representative
2nd District Caloocan City

² *The K to 12 Basic Education Program*. Retrieved 6 November 2013 from <http://www.gov.ph/k-12/>.

³ Philippine daily Inquirer, June 29, 2016 *DepEd Plans to Send More Students to Private Schools*. Retrieved 6 November 2013 from <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/412597/depd-plans-to-send-more-students-to-private-schools#ixzz2joXPCKFk>.

⁴ *DepEd details P1.1M cost of each classroom*. Retrieved 6 November 2013 from <http://ppp.gov.ph/?p=12396>.

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of Senior High Schools.* There shall be established, under the control and supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd), a Senior High School for each of the legislative districts in the country, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as "*An Act Enhancing the Philippine Basic Education System by Strengthening its Curriculum and Increasing the Number of Years for Basic Education, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes.*"

The courses to be offered by the Senior High Schools shall be in accordance with the enhanced basic education curriculum formulated and designed by the DepEd in pursuance of Section 5 of the RA 10533 and in coordination with Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

SECTION 2. The budgetary allocation needed to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year immediately following its enactment into law.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,