

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. **5857**



Introduced by Representative H. Harry L. Roque Jr.

AN ACT
TO REQUIRE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
TO HAVE MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS OF THEIR STUDENTS

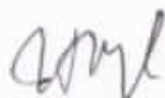
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution in Article 2, Section 13 provides that:

Section 13. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

The importance of medical and dental records cannot be overemphasized. These records serve as the basis for treatment and diagnosis of patients. In extreme cases, these records can be used to identify persons who are burned beyond recognition. Even our Labor Code in its Implementing Rules, Section 10 (b) provides that the employer shall maintain a record of all medical examinations, treatments and medical activities given to its employees.

In the Philippines, we do not have a system of keeping track of our people's medical and dental records. Since majority of our people go to elementary and secondary schools, whether private or public, our schools can serve as the database collection center for medical and dental records. This bill aims to address the problem of the absence of sources of medical and dental records of our people.¹



H. HARRY L. ROQUE JR.

¹ This bill was originally filed by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago during the Sixteenth Congress Third Regular Session

1 SECTION 2. *Valid Issuers of Medical and Dental Certificates.* - Each
2 certificate in the medical and dental records shall be signed by a duly licensed
3 physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, in case of the medical certificate
4 and a dentist in case of the dental certificate, who is authorized to practice in the
5 jurisdiction in which the examination was given, provided that the Secretary of Health
6 has determined that such jurisdiction has standards of licensure and practice
7 comparable to those of the Philippines.

8 SECTION 3. *When Examination Should be Made.* - Each such certificate shall
9 describe the condition of the student when the examination was made, which shall not
10 be more than twelve (12) months prior to the commencement of the school year in
11 which the examination is required, and shall state whether such student is in a fit
12 condition of health to permit his or her attendance at the public or private schools.

13 SECTION 4. *Source of the Medical and Dental Records.* - The student has the
14 choice of submitting to the school his medical and dental certificate which came from
15 a legitimate source as prescribed in the preceding sections or be examined by the
16 medical practitioner assigned in the school where he is to be enrolled. If such student
17 does not present a health certificate as required in this section, unless he or she has
18 been accommodated on religious grounds, the principal or the principal's designee
19 shall cause a notice to be sent to the parents or person in parental relationship to such
20 student that an examination will be made of such student, as provided in this Act.

21 SECTION 5. *Respect for Religious Beliefs.* - Notwithstanding the provisions of
22 this Act, no examinations for a medical or dental certificate or medical or dental

1 history shall be required where a student or the parent or person in parental relation to
2 such student objects thereto on the grounds that such examinations or health history
3 conflict with their genuine and sincere religious beliefs.

4 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause*. If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
5 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
6 provisions hereof.

7 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, decrees, executive order or rules
8 and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
9 accordingly.

10 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
11 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
12 circulation.

13 Approved.