

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **7839**



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Reports of classroom overcrowding and the derelict condition of our public school facilities has long since been a problem that the Government can't seem to address. It is a shame that Filipino students, many of whom show great promise and admirable diligence in their pursuit of a brighter future, has to accommodate themselves to such deficiencies.

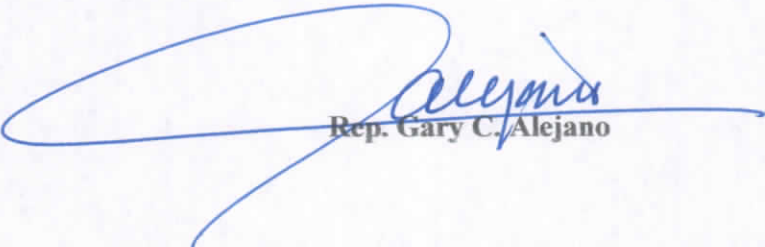
The incremental increase in enrollees every year has further exacerbated this problem. The construction of school buildings and other such facilities lag behind the increasing demand for it. Metro Manila alone has a classroom shortage of 18,058. In 2017, the projected classroom shortage across the country is at 113, 995.

Furthermore, aside from funding, there is also a need to rationalize the government's school building strategy in order to effectively address the various, continuously evolving problems that such endeavor entails.

If enacted, this proposed measure shall enforce a five-year comprehensive school-building program to address the insufficiency of school infrastructures. Among the salient features of this bill is the provision of build, operate and transfer, build and transfer, build-lease and transfer, rehabilitate-operate and transfer and other contractual arrangement schemes provided under R.A. No. 6957 to finance, through both government and private funds, the construction of the much needed school facilities. An inter-agency committee between the DepEd, DPWH, and DILG shall also be established to secure the effective implementation of the Five-Year School Building Program.

This bill is filed with an end view of reducing classroom sizes and providing for our students, high quality school facilities, so that they may further develop their potentialities in an environment that is much more conducive for learning. The current administration has heavily invested on infrastructure to spur the national economy, but it is the hope of this representation that the administration invest too on infrastructures that shall spur our peoples future.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. Gary C. Alejano

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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL SITES AND THE
CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, REHABILITATION, AND REPAIR OF SCHOOL
BUILDINGS IN THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS
NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title.—This Act shall be known as the “Five-Year School Building
Program Act”

SEC. 2. Objectives.—There shall be established a comprehensive and consistent School
Building Program, hereinafter referred to as the “Program,” which shall have the following
objectives:

1. To provide a system for an accurate inventory of all existing public, primary, and
secondary school buildings, with proper indications as to its location, size, capacity,
condition, and compliance with basic building safety requirements;

2. To provide appropriate studies for determining the yearly school building
requirements based on projected increases in enrollment and other appropriate indicators;

3. To provide for the effective monitoring and supervision of all school building
facilities with respect to its proper and adequate maintenance, replacement, rehabilitation,
and repair;

4. To provide a comprehensive plan for acquisition and/or construction and adequate
school sites, buildings and facilities for all public, elementary, and secondary schools
nationwide, with the aim of reducing the classroom to students ratio to an ideal proportion
within a period of five (5) years upon approval of this Act;

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2 5. To provide the mechanism for the selection of public schools to prioritize in the
3 school-building projects nationwide;
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5 6. To provide a specific time schedule for the construction of school buildings which
6 shall be strictly followed as to prevent unnecessary delays and backlogs;
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8 7. To provide for necessary mechanisms which will facilitate a closer coordination
9 between the Department of Budget and Management, Department of Public Works and
10 Highways, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Education to
11 expedite the implementation of the Program;
12

13 8. To formulate guidelines for the bidding procedures that will be used for the school
14 building program including that of the contractual arrangement schemes;
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16 9. To provide for a definite work and financial schedule for the construction,
17 operation, and maintenance of school buildings under any of the contractual arrangement
18 schemes.
19

20 **SEC. 3. Inter-Agency Committee.**—To formulate and ensure the effective implementation
21 of the program, there is hereby created an inter-agency committee, to be headed by the Secretary of
22 Education as Chairperson, and the respective Secretaries of Public Works and Highways, Budget
23 and Management and Interior and Local Government, as members. The committee shall within a
24 year from the approval of this Act, submit to the Committee on Education of both houses of
25 Congress and every year thereafter, the comprehensive school-building program herein established.
26

27 **SEC. 4. Implementation of the Program.**—Consistent with the provisions of Republic Act
28 No. 7880, otherwise known as the "Fair and Equitable Access to Education Act," the Committee
29 shall determine and supervise the acquisition and/or construction of priority school building
30 projects to be implemented by the DepEd as provided in the Program. The DepEd is hereby
31 authorized to enter into contracts with duly pre-qualified private contractors for the design and
32 construction management, as well as the financing, construction, operation, maintenance of school-
33 buildings through the build, operate and transfer, build and transfer, build-lease and transfer,
34 rehabilitate-operate and transfer and other contractual arrangement schemes provided under R.A.
35 No. 6957.

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2 **SEC. 5. Release of Maintenance and Other Operating Expenditures.**—For the purpose of
3 ensuring compliance of such contractual arrangement as may hereinafter be entered, the
4 appropriation of the DepEd for the school-building program and for maintenance and other
5 operating expenditures shall be directly released to the DepEd according to the work and financial
6 schedule stipulated in the program.

7
8 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.**—The amount necessary to attain the objectives of this Act shall be
9 authorized to be appropriated out of the unallocated share of the national government in the income
10 of the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), for a period of five (5) years.

11
12 If the above amount is inadequate and insufficient, such amount as may be necessary to
13 augment said annual appropriations shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

14
15 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause**—If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the
16 same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions thereof.

17
18 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.**—All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and all other
19 issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or
20 modified accordingly.

21
22 **SEC. 9. Effectivity**—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at
23 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,