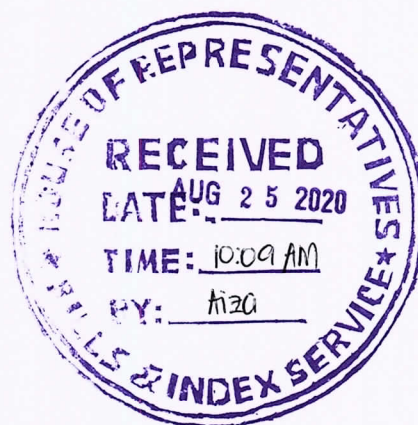


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. 7481



**INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

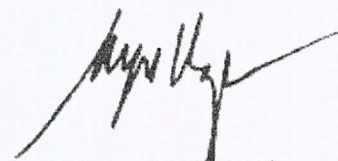
AN ACT
**MANDATING INCLUSION OF PANDEMICS, EPIDEMICS, AND OTHER
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic poses great risks to children's health and education. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), sharing the same concern, recommended a COVID-19 curriculum in March this year which included suggestions on how educators can engage students on preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. UNICEF also aims to aid in the continuity of learning for children amidst the pandemic.

This bill seeks to include the topic of pandemics, epidemics, and other public health crises as part of the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools. Understanding the history and how governments have managed to control these crises will be beneficial in creating risk reduction and preparedness plans in the future. It is the hope of this Representation that the next generation of Filipinos will be more prepared in handling public health crises of great proportions.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

Republic of the Philippines
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**AN ACT
MANDATING INCLUSION OF PANDEMICS, EPIDEMICS, AND OTHER
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PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, 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 "*Pandemics and Other Public Health Crises Education Act.*"

SECTION 2. *Inclusion of Pandemics Education in the Curriculum.* – Teaching of and discussions on pandemics, epidemics, other public health crises, its effects, and preparedness or mitigation strategies is hereby required to be part of the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools in the Philippines.

The Department of Education (DepEd) shall consult with the Department of Health, the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council, and other relevant public or private institutions in crafting the age and level-appropriate curriculum for this purpose.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education shall adopt the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provision of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed for this purpose shall be taken from the appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter,

such amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,