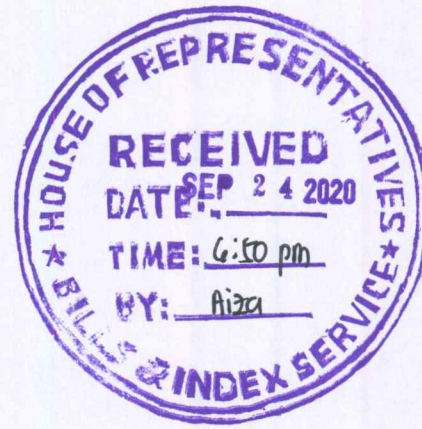


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
2nd Regular Session

House Bill No. 7758



Introduced by Honorable Deogracias Victor 'DV' B. Savellano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

During the 20th century, there were 3 serious influenza pandemics, killing millions of people. In 1918, the Spanish Flu caused the death of 50 million people throughout Europe, the United States and parts of Asia; in 1957, the Asian Flu killed about 2 million people worldwide; and in 1968, the Hong Kong Flu killed up to 1 million people.

Pandemics, plagues and other public health crises have such a devastating effect on the health; the economic and social well being; and the basic services of the population that it can even lead the country into becoming a failed state. A community quarantine was imposed to curtail the spread of the deadly Covid-19 with bans on international and local travel including the shutdown of local public transportation. It is estimated by the Asian Development Bank that our GDP registered at a negative growth rate at -3.8% in 2020.

Pandemic planning can enable countries to be prepared to recognize and manage an influenza or any kind of wide spread affliction for that matter. Planning can help us reduce transmission of the disease, to decrease cases as well as hospitalization and deaths, to maintain essential services and to reduce the economic and social impact of a pandemic.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recommended this year, a COVID-19 curriculum including suggestions on how teachers can engage students of different ages on preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. UNICEF stressed that any conversations or activities should always consider the specific needs

of children, the guidance provided by the school, government authorities and entities like UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

Through the educational system and its different fields of study (i.e. science, economics, history and culture), this bill proposes to include in the course outlines of health subjects, an extensive study on all kinds of public health crises in the primary and secondary schools. It will instruct the students on how to cope with the effects, the proper preparation and mitigation measures to resist the scourge.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

HON. DEOGRACIAS VICTOR 'DV' B. SAVELLANO
Representative, 1st District Ilocos Sur

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

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AN ACT

**MANDATING INCLUSION OF PANDEMICS, PLAGUES AND OTHER PUBLIC
HEALTH CRISES EXTENSIVELY AS PART OF THE TEXTS OF HEALTH SUBJECTS
IN ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. Inclusion of Extensive Studies of Pandemics and Other Public Health Crises in Health Subjects in the Primary and Secondary Schools. - Teaching of and discussions on pandemics, plagues and other public health crises, its effects and preparation or mitigation strategies is hereby required to be part of the texts of health subjects in the 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 course subject for this purpose.

Section 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DepEd shall adopt the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provision of this Act.

Section 3. 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 at shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. **Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 5. **Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,