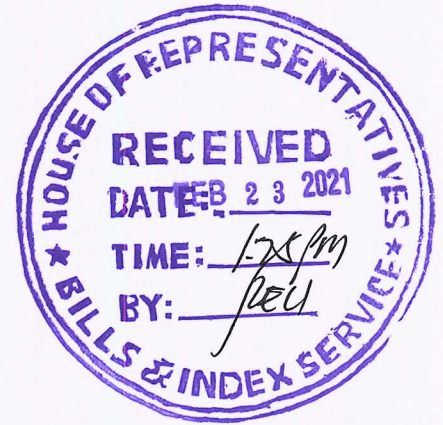


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 8809



Introduced by **MAGDALO PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In June 2015, a fire struck the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Association Food Center (CASAA) of the UP Diliman Campus due to a gas tank leak. A month after, another fire incident burned the Alumni Center to the ground.¹ In April 2016, the buildings of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and the University Chapel of the University of the East in Manila went aflame and reached the eighth highest alarm level.² These fire incidents in campuses must be given attention as it involves the safety of the youth and the rest of the academic community. Considering the high congestion of students and faculty members, it is necessary to reassess the capability of educational institutions against fire hazards.

This bill seeks to mandate all public and private educational institutions to inform their students, employees and interested applicants with an annual Fire Safety Report. The report shall be distributed through appropriate publications and mailings to promote

¹ Inquirer. Fire hits UP Diliman's Casaa food center. Information retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/698185/fire-razes-up-diliman-building>. Dated June 13, 2015

² PhilStar. University of the East buildings hit by fire. Information retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2016/04/01/1568694/university-east-buildings-hit-fire>. Dated April 1, 2016

fire safety standards. This is to compel learning institutions to disclose their current fire safety practices so that areas of improvement could be properly identified, and appropriate measures could be adopted to always ensure the safety of the whole community.

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



MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

Representative

Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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Introduced by **MAGDALO PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES**

HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR THE COMPULSORY DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY
STANDARDS AND MEASURES IN CAMPUS BUILDINGS**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.*— This Act shall be known as the “Campus Fire Safety
2 Right-to-Know Act of 2021”.

3
4 Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.*— For the purpose of this Act:

5 (a) *Chairman* refers to the Chairman of the Commission on Higher
6 Education; and

7 (b) *CHED* refers to the Commission on Higher Education.
8

9 Sec. 3. *Disclosure of Fire Safety Standards and Measures in Campus Buildings.*—
10 All public and private educational institutions shall, beginning in the Academic Year
11 2019-2020, and each year thereafter, prepare, public and distribute, through
12 appropriate publications or mailings to all current students and employees and to any
13 applicant for enrolment or employment upon request, an annual Fire Safety Report

1 containing at least the following information with respect to their campus fire safety
2 practices and standards:

3 (a) A detailed summary of all educational facilities including student housing
4 facilities of the institution, if any, with a statement of whether or not the
5 facilities are equipped with a fire sprinkler system or any other fire safety
6 system, or both;

7 (b) If available, statistics concerning the occurrence on campus during the two
8 (2) preceding calendar year of fires and false alarms in the subject facilities;

9 (c) For each such occurrence, a statement of the human injuries or deaths, and
10 the structural damage caused by the occurrence;

11 (d) Information regarding fire alarms, smoke alarms, the presence of adequate
12 fire escape planning or protocols, rules on portable electrical appliances,
13 smoking and open flames (such as candles), regular mandatory supervised
14 fire drills, and planned and future improvement in fire safety; and

15 (e) Preventive steps and/or programs and other fire safety undertaken by the
16 educational institution concerned to curb and mitigate fire hazards.

17
18 *Sec. 4. Autonomy of Educations/Institutions.*— Nothing in the previous section
19 shall be construed to authorize the Secretary of the Department of Education and/or
20 the Chairman, when applicable, to require particular policies, procedures, or practices
21 by educational institutions with respect to fire safety.

22
23 *Sec. 5. Periodic Reports.*— Each institution covered by this Act shall make
24 periodic reports to the campus community on fires and false alarms which are reported
25 to local fire departments in a manner that will aid the prevention of similar
26 occurrences.

27
28 *Sec. 6. Reports to the Secretary of Education and/or Chairman.*— On an annual
29 basis, each institution covered by this Act shall submit to the Secretary of Education
30 or any of his duly authorized representative, in the cases of primary and secondary
31 educational institutions and the Chairman or any of his duly authorized representative,
32 in the cases of tertiary educational institutions, a copy of the information required to

1 be disclosed under Section 3 hereof. Thereafter, the Secretary of Education and the
2 Chairman, in proper cases, shall:

- 3 (a) Review such statistics;
- 4 (b) Make copies of statistics available of the public; and
- 5 (c) In coordination with representatives of the institutions concerned, identify
6 exemplary fire and safety policies, procedures, and practices and
7 disseminate information concerning those policies, procedures and practices
8 that have been proven effective in the reduction of campus fires.

9
10 *Sec. 7. Report to Congress by the Secretary of Education and/or Chairman of*
11 *CHED.*— Within one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education
12 and/or Chairman of the CHED, in proper cases, shall prepare and submit to the
13 Congress a report containing the following:

- 14 (a) An analysis of the current status of the fire safety systems in all educational
15 facilities covered by this Act;
- 16 (b) An analysis of the appropriate fire safety standards to apply to these
17 facilities, which the Secretary of Education and/or the Chairman, in proper
18 cases, shall prepare after consultation with such fire safety experts,
19 representative of educational institutions, and other government agencies
20 as the Secretary of Education and/or Chairman, considers appropriate;
- 21 (c) An estimate of the cost of bringing all nonconforming dormitories and other
22 campus buildings up to current building codes; and
- 23 (d) Recommendations concerning the best means of meeting fire safety
24 standards in all facilities, including recommendations for methods to fund
25 such cost.

26
27 *Sec. 8. Lead Agency.*— The Department of Education shall be the lead
28 government agency tasked to implement this Act.

29
30 *Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.*— The Department of Education
31 shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations to enforce the provisions
32 of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days from the enactment of this law.

1

2 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.*– If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
3 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall
4 continue to be in full force and effect.

5

6 Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.*– All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
7 orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
8 which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
9 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

10

11 Sec. 12. *Effectivity Clause.*– This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
12 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,