

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10162



Introduced by Representative Cyrille “Beng” F. Abueg-Zaldivar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Similar House Bill (H.B.) has previously been filed in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Congress as H.B. No. 4532 and H.B. No. 4763, respectively. Both bills were referred to the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture. This present bill is now a substantial reiteration of the previous legislative measures.

The proposed bill seeks to provide efficient and effective delivery of services, supervision, and administration of the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division Office of Palawan into two (2) separated Schools Division Offices to be known as the Schools Division Office of Palawan South and Schools Division Office of Palawan North.

In 1900, the Division of Palawan was attached to the Division of Mindanao and Jolo based in Zamboanga. On October 1, 1901, this Division was renamed Division of Mindanao, Jolo, and Calamianes. During that time, Palawan was known as Calamianes. In July 1902, Philippine Act No. 477 separating the Division of Paragua, former name of Palawan, from its mother Division was enacted. The Division of Paragua was composed of the entire mainland of Paragua and other islands within its jurisdiction under the Governor of the province, who concomitantly acted as the Division Superintendent. Every pueblo or town then constituted a school district.

The present Division of Palawan is beset with many challenges caused by the province’s geographical characteristics. Adequate instructional and field supervision is difficult to achieve, thus affecting the faculty and students’ performance. Records show that the Division’s regional and national achievement tests performance falls below the regional and national mean. Moreover, the total number of students, in addition to the

teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Division of Palawan, is equivalent to four (4) divisions in MIMAROPA Region IV-B.

Separating the DepEd Schools Division of Palawan into two (2) Divisions will provide better supervision and administration of schools in the province. The mother Division shall be the Schools Division of Palawan South, comprised of schools in the municipalities of Aborlan, Narra, Quezon, Sofronio Española, Brooke's Point, Bataraza, Rizal, and Balabac. The Schools Division of Palawan North shall be comprised of schools in the municipalities of Roxas, San Vicente, Dumarán, Araceli, Taytay, El Nido, Coron, Culion, Busuanga, Linapacan, Cagayancillo, Cuyo, Magsaysay, Agutaya, and Kalayaan.

With the creation of separate Schools Division for Palawan South and Palawan North, desired efficiency and effectiveness of DepEd services to the public will be attained. Likewise, instructional supervision to check compliance and implementation of curriculum requirements will be conducted regularly.

In accordance with the State's policy of providing quality education for its citizens, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR
Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING SEPARATE SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE IN THE
PALAWAN SOUTH AND PALAWAN NORTH, DIVIDING THE EXISTING
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF PALAWAN, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** There is hereby established, under the supervision of the
2 Department of Education (DepEd), Schools Division Offices in the Palawan South
3 and Palawan North in the Province of Palawan, effectively dividing the existing
4 Schools Division of Palawan. The Schools Division of Palawan South shall have
5 jurisdiction over all basic education schools within the municipalities of Aborlan,
6 Narra, Quezon, Sofronio Española, Brooke’s Point, Bataraza, Rizal, and Balabac.
7 The Schools Division of Palawan North shall have jurisdiction over all basic
8 education schools within the municipalities of Roxas, San Vicente, Dumaran,
9 Araceli, Taytay, El Nido, Coron, Culion, Busuanga, Linapacan, Cagayancillo, Cuyo,
10 Magsaysay, Agutaya, and Kalayaan.

11 The DepEd shall determine the staff complement and the qualification
12 standards assigned in the Schools Division Offices.

13 **SEC. 2.** The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the
14 Department’s program the operationalization of the Schools Division Office of
15 Palawan South and Schools Division Office of Palawan North, the funding of which
16 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **SEC. 3.** Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary
2 of Education shall formulate and issue the rules and regulations implementing the
3 provisions of this Act.

4 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
5 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,