

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 3146



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Traditionally, school buildings have been utilized as safe shelters in times of typhoons. Families often seek refuge in local public schools that they find generally safer than their homes. However, school buildings are also among the public facilities that are prone to the impacts of natural disasters. Many of our schools are not built to sustain the impact of strong typhoons. Especially with the looming effects of climate change, these natural disasters are only about to get stronger.

In DepEd Order no. 64, s.2017, the architectural design standard for classrooms is provided. For ceilings, it must be a drop-type ceiling. The clear height of rooms from FFL to the finished ceiling line (FCL) must be at least 2.70 meters. Materials to be used for the ceiling must provide thermal comfort inside the classroom. Maintenance access to the ceiling cavity must be through the corridor. For the roofing, the material must be adequately protected from rust/oxidation, salt air, acid rain, or other sources and forms of corrosion. If made of metal, the roofing sheets shall be of 0.40 mm base metal thickness (BMT) and securely fastened to the roof frames. For single-storey school buildings, gutters may not be included; however, a properly sloped trench drain on both sides must be provided. For multi-storey school buildings, the roof must be provided with concrete gutter and eaves which shall be at least 1.10 meters from the corridor.

Admittedly, the architectural standards for schools are not designed to withstand stronger natural hazards. School buildings that are vulnerable to the impact of typhoons, will not only expose school children and teachers, but also those families who seek refuge in these facilities, to greater risks.

This Bill aims to establish a typhoon vulnerability reduction program for the public education sector. It shall provide a guide to the design, and construction of public-school buildings across the country, in accordance with the extent of the school's

exposure to typhoon hazards. It shall identify the schools that are high-risk, and mandate the construction and improvement of the facilities of identified schools to be typhoon-proof.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this Bill is immediately sought.



VIRGILIO S. LACSON
Manila Teachers Partylist

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE CREATION OF THE TYPHOON VULNERABILITY
REDUCTION PLAN FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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 "Typhoon Vulnerability Reduction for Public Schools Act."

Section 2. Typhoon Vulnerability Reduction Plan. - The Department of Education shall organize a Committee tasked to identify the vulnerability rate of public schools, based on location, school building layout, structure and construction work. The vulnerability rating shall be classified into three types: low, medium, and high risk.

The Committee shall undertake the creation of the Natural Hazard Vulnerability Reduction Plan for the implementation of school building retrofitting to address existing structural issues.

Section 3. Construction of Public School Buildings, Requirement. - All public school buildings to be erected in identified high-risk areas shall be constructed with reinforced concrete flooring and roofing, and other disaster-mitigating structural specifications the Committee may require.

V. Lacson

Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The Department of Education (DepEd) shall promulgate the corresponding implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from the date of its effectivity.

Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be treated as a distinct and separate budget item from the regular appropriation of the Department of Education.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Placer', located in the bottom right corner of the page.