

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4577



Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

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

Pandemics, epidemics, and similar public health crises impact not only the health and well-being of the population but also a nation's economy and its capacity for the delivery of basic services to the people. The COVID-19 pandemic is a testament to how public health emergencies of this scale can largely impact the lives of the people and the nation.

During the earlier months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the country had some issues with properly enforcing health protocols and travel restrictions as there was overwhelming confusion amongst the public. In this light, this measure seeks to prepare the public by providing them with adequate knowledge about public health emergencies through the integration of the discussion on pandemics, epidemics, and other public health emergencies into the curricula of primary and secondary education.

This measure provides for the development of age and level-appropriate courses on the effects of these health emergencies, achieving preparedness and adopting mitigation strategies, to be led by the Department of Education in coordination with the Department of Health, National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council, and other relevant institutions.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought. the

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gus S. Tambunting".

REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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

SECTION 1. Inclusion of Pandemics Education in the Curriculum. – Teaching of and discussions on pandemics, epidemics, other public health crises, their effects, and preparedness or mitigation strategies are 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.

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

SEC. 3. Appropriations. – The funds needed for this purpose shall be taken from the appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such an amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. 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.

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

Approved,