Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10520

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
E-Filed
RECEIVED
DATE June 6, 2024
TIME 5:02 pm
BY Reli
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

AN ACT REGULATING THE LEARNER CLASS SIZE IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY, JUNIOR HIGH, AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, classrooms in the Philippines are among the most crowded in Asia, with some classrooms reaching a ratio of 1 teacher per 77 students. This alarming situation stems from the rapid increase in the number of students coupled with a persistent shortage of teachers in public schools. Overcrowded classrooms have been consistently shown to hinder effective learning, as they make it difficult for students to concentrate and place excessive demands on teachers, preventing them from providing adequate attention to each student.

The issue of overcrowded classrooms is not merely a logistical challenge but a violation of fundamental rights. Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution guarantees the right of every Filipino to quality education at all levels, which overcrowded classrooms directly undermine. Furthermore, the Constitution, under Article XIII, Section 3, ensures the rights of workers, including teachers, to a just and humane working environment. The current classroom conditions fail to meet these constitutional mandates, adversely affecting both students' right to quality education and teachers' right to a fair working environment.

In conclusion, addressing the issue of overcrowded classrooms through the implementation of policies that regulate teacher-student ratios is critical for upholding the constitutional rights of students and teachers. It is a necessary step towards fostering a learning environment that maximizes educational outcomes and ensures the well-being of both students and teachers. By committing to these reforms, we can move closer to realizing the constitutional mandate of providing quality education for all.

In view of the foregoing, approval of the Bill is earnestly sought.

HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10520

Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

AN ACT REGULATING THE LEARNER CLASS SIZE IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY, JUNIOR HIGH, AND SENIOR HIGH 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 the "Public School Class Size Law"

SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy*** — It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education. It is likewise declared that the State shall provide just compensation and humane working conditions for public school teachers.

SEC. 3. ***Coverage*** — This law shall apply to all public schools under the Department of Education. It covers all classroom teachers, irrespective of whether their salaries are paid by the national or local government. This comprehensive scope ensures uniform standards and benefits across the entire public education system.

SEC. 4. ***Standard Class Size*** — Each class handled by a single teacher shall have a maximum size of thirty five (35) students for elementary, junior high school, and senior high school. A class with thirty five (35) students shall be deemed a standard class. This standard is based on educational best practices that indicate smaller class sizes enhance learning outcomes and allow teachers to provide more individualized attention.

SEC. 5. ***Large Class Size*** — Any class exceeding thirty five (35) students up to a maximum of fifty (50) students shall be considered a large class. Under no circumstances shall a class size exceed fifty (50) students. This provision aims to prevent excessively crowded classrooms, which can detract from the quality of education and place undue stress on teachers.

SEC. 6. ***Transition Period*** — Schools will have a three-year transition period to adjust their class structures to comply with the standard class size. During this period, schools may hire additional teachers, split existing classes, or employ other mechanisms to meet the required ratios. Importantly, schools shall not dismiss students in order to comply with the standard class size.

SEC. 7. ***Reportorial Requirement*** — The Department of Education shall submit an annual compliance report to Congress, through the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Senate Committee, by April 30 each year. This report will detail the progress and compliance with the Act, ensuring transparency and accountability in its implementation.

SEC. 8. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations*** — The Department of Education shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act within a period of thirty (30) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 9. ***Separability Clause*** — If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional, all other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. ***Repealing Clause*** — All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. ***Effectivity*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,