

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2208



Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislative measure seeks to amend Section 272 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 to expand the use and allocation of the Special Education Fund (SEF). The proposed amendment shall introduces the inclusion of the construction and repair of libraries, payment of salaries, allowances and other benefits for teaching and non-teaching personnel, competency trainings for teaching personnel, operation of non-formal education programs or Alternative Learning Systems (ALS), including the payment of the salaries of ALS facilitators and other expenditures relative to the promotion of accessible public education.

According to the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), the SEF is significantly being underutilized across the country. The Commission highlighted that from 2018 to 2022, unspent SEF funds totaled to approximately P15 billion in the year 2022, while the highest underutilization rates were observed in cities at 57%. EDCOM states that these rates can largely be attributed to the restrictive guidelines on how the SEF can be used or spent.

This proposed bill aims to empower local government units (LGUs) by granting them greater flexibility in utilizing these funds. It is hoped that the proposed measure can improve the learning environment for students and teachers, as well as enhance the welfare and professional development of educators and non-teaching personnel.

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


Ryan S. Recto
Representative
6th District, Batangas

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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE PURPOSES AND APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 272 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the
2 *Local Government Code of 1991*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "Sec. 272. *Application of the Proceeds of the Additional One Percent SEF*
4 *Tax.* - The proceeds from the additional one percent (1%) tax on real
5 property accruing to the Special Education Fund (SEF) shall be
6 automatically released to the local school boards. *Provided*, That in case
7 of provinces, the proceeds shall be divided equally between the provincial
8 and municipal school boards. *Provided, however*, That the proceeds shall
9 be allocated for the operation and maintenance of public schools,
10 construction and repair of school buildings **AND LIBRARIES**, facilities, and
11 equipment, **PAYMENT OF SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND OTHER**
12 **BENEFITS OF TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL,**
13 **COMPETENCY TRAININGS FOR TEACHING PERSONNEL, OPERATION OF**
14 **ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM (ALS) INCLUDING PAYMENT OF**
15 **SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND OTHER BENEFITS OF ALS LEARNING**
16 **FACILITATORS**, educational research, purchase of books and periodicals,
17 **[and] sports development, AND ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES RELATIVE**
18 **TO THE PROMOTION OF ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC EDUCATION** as
19 determined and approved by the local school board."

20 x x x"

21 Sec. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Interior and
22 Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Education shall jointly promulgate the

1 necessary rules and regulations for the faithful and effective implementation of the
2 provisions of this Act within thirty (30) days from the date of its effectivity.

3 Sec. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
4 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall
5 remain in full force and effect.

6 Sec. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
7 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
8 modified accordingly.

9 Sec. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
10 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
11 circulation.

Approved,