

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3153**



Introduced by HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A BLENDED LEARNING IN THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL
SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In imparting education to all public elementary and secondary schools as well as Community Learning Centers (CLCs) nationwide, the health, safety and well-being of teachers and learners are important. The environment should also be conducive in the teaching and learning process. Unforeseen circumstances, such as disasters, emergencies and other crises may disrupt the academic activities of the school, thereby affecting its school calendar. Accordingly, the school must ensure a minimal disruption in the educational process.

Presently, however, the physical and digital infrastructure to shift to e-learning remains much to be desired. The need to access to devices and cost of connectivity are basic challenges that the educational institutions are being confronted with. This may still be true at the barangay level. These are essentially the major stumbling blocks in our quest for the continued conduct of education during abnormal conditions.

This bill seeks to adopt a blended learning process to address these concerns to effectively prosecute a continuous and uninterrupted conduct of education.

Support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly requested.

REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

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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 “Blended Learning Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* – The State shall ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the education curriculum to facilitate the delivery of quality education. Towards this end, blended learning shall be adopted in the event of unforeseen circumstances, such as disasters, emergencies and other crises that may disrupt the school calendar.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act covers all public elementary and secondary schools, including Community Learning Centers (CLCs) nationwide.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- (a.) Blended Learning refers to the thoughtful integration of classroom face-to-face or in-person learning experiences with online learning experiences.
- (b.) Community Learning Center (CLC) refers to physical space that houses learning resources and facilities for a learning program for adults and out-of-school children in special cases. It is a venue for face-to-face learning activities and other learning opportunities for community development and improvement of people’s quality of life.
- (c.) Online Distance Learning (ODL) refers to a modality that allows the teacher to facilitate learning synchronously or asynchronously, and to engage learners’ active participation using various technologies accessed to the internet while teachers and learners are geographically remote from each other.
- (d.) Modular Distance Learning (MDL) refers to self-directed learning where learners are provided with self-learning modules (SLMs) and other learning resources to aid them in the completion of learning tasks within given timeframes.

SEC. 5. *Declaration of existence of Disasters, Other Crises.* – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in coordination with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and other government agencies shall declare the suspension or cancellation of in-person classes due to disasters, emergencies and other crises before blended learning is implemented under this Act.

SEC. 6. *Digital Infrastructure.* – To effectively shift to e-learning, Online Distance Learning (ODL) and Modular Distance Learning (MDL) shall be established.

This transition shall be complemented with access to devices, learning tools, gadgets and lowered cost of connectivity.

SEC. 7. *Internet at the Barangay Level.* – Internet connectivity at the barangay level should be strengthened to ensure effective implementation of blended learning.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), DILG, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) are mandated to formulate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Support from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Private Sector.* – Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private volunteer organizations (PVOs) and private corporations are hereby encouraged to assist or support the government in the implementation of programs and projects for blended learning. Pursuant thereto, the DepEd may accept such assistance from NGOs and the private sector.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provisions or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,