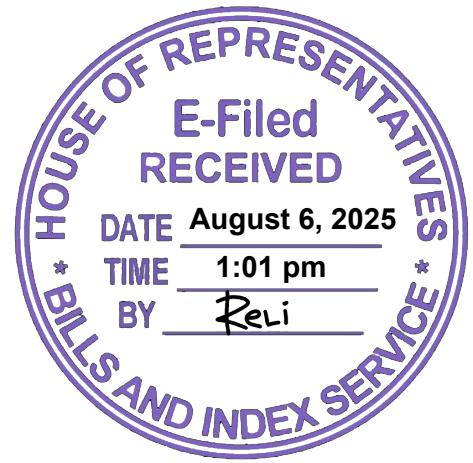


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3220



Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

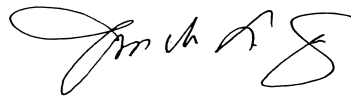
Republic Act No. 10533 or the *Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013* introduced the Senior High School (SHS) program in the country's education system to address the educational gaps through aligning the system with international standards. It promised to develop well-rounded graduates equipped with 21st-century skills, and to produce college and workforce ready individuals.

However, after more than a decade of its implementation, the program is still facing continuous challenges. Criticisms from various sectors centers on curriculum congestion, mismatch between the skills of senior high school graduates and the demands of the labor market, teachers under heavy workloads, and the inability for SHS graduates to enter into the workforce. The failure to deliver on its promise to make its graduates college-ready and work-ready may be the main reason of the dissatisfaction with the senior high school program. In fact, a DepEd tracer study presented in 2023 found that many SHS graduates faced difficulties such as challenging subjects, non-crediting of SHS courses in college, and rejection from degree programs due to strand mismatch.¹

This proposed bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10533 by removing the mandatory Senior High School program from the basic education system. This bill addresses the present realities by streamlining the education system to make it more efficient, alleviate unnecessary burdens imposed students and teachers, and reallocate government's resource to improve learning outcomes at the core levels of education. This reverts the basic education system back to its previous structure which consists of kindergarten, six years of elementary education, and four years of secondary education.

This is a recalibration based on the present realities and not a regression. The bill affirms the need to enhance education in the Philippines, but in a manner that is attuned to socioeconomic realities and advantageous our learners.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emilio Yulo", with a stylized flourish at the end.

REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

¹Department of Education, *Presentation to the Senate Committee on Basic Education on the Implementation of the K to 12 Program*, April 13, 2023, as cited in ABS-CBN News, "Senators lament 'failings' of current education system, press for reforms," April 13, 2023

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**AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM
BY REMOVING THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION, AMENDING
PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013" AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*Rationalized
Basic Education Act*".

SEC. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the
"Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013" is hereby amended to read as
follows:

"SEC. 4. ~~[Enhanced]~~ **RATIONALIZED** *Basic Education
Program.* — The ~~[enhanced]~~ **RATIONALIZED** basic education
program encompasses at least one (1) year of kindergarten
education, six (6) years of elementary education, and ~~[six (6)]~~
FOUR (4) years of secondary education, in that sequence.
~~[Secondary education includes four (1) years of junior high
school and two (2) years of senior high school education.]~~

"Kindergarten education shall mean one (1) year of preparatory education for children at least five (5) years old as a prerequisite for Grade I.

"Elementary education refers to the second stage of compulsory basic education which is composed of six (6) years. The entrant age to this level is typically six (6) years old.

"Secondary education refers to the third stage of compulsory basic education. It consists of four (4) years of ~~[junior]~~ high school education ~~[and two (2) years of senior high school education]~~. The entrant age to the ~~[junior and senior]~~ high school level ~~[s-are]~~ **IS** typically twelve (12) ~~[and sixteen (16) years old [, respectively]~~.

"x x x."

SEC. 3. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. *Curriculum Development.* - The DepED shall formulate the design and details of the ~~[enhanced]~~ **RATIONALIZED** basic education curriculum. It shall work with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to craft harmonized basic and tertiary curricula for the global competitiveness of Filipino graduates. To ensure college readiness and to avoid remedial and duplication of basic education subjects, the DepED shall coordinate with the CHED and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

"To achieve an effective ~~[enhanced]~~ **RATIONALIZED** basic education curriculum, the DepED shall undertake consultations with other national government agencies and other stakeholders including, but not limited to, the

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the private and public schools associations, the national student organizations, the national teacher organizations, the parents-teachers associations and the chambers of commerce on matters affecting the concerned stakeholders.

"The DepED shall adhere to the following standards and principles in developing the [enhanced] **RATIONALIZED** basic education curriculum:

"(a) x x x;

"x x x."

SEC. 4. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read follows:

"*SEC. 7. Teacher Education and Training.* — To ensure that the [enhanced] **RATIONALIZED** basic education program meets the demand for quality teachers and school leaders, the DepED and the CHED, in collaboration with relevant partners in government, academe, industry, and nongovernmental organizations, shall conduct teacher education and training programs, as specified:

"(a) In-service Training on Content and Pedagogy — Current DepED teachers shall be [re] trained to meet the content and performance standards of the [new K to 12] **BASIC EDUCATION** curriculum.

"The DepED shall ensure that private education institutions shall be given the opportunity to avail of such training.

"(b) Training of New Teachers. - New graduates of the current Teacher Education curriculum shall undergo additional training, upon hiring, to upgrade their skills to the content standards of the [new] curriculum. Furthermore, the CHED, in coordination with the DepED and relevant stakeholders, shall ensure that the Teacher Education curriculum offered in these Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) will meet necessary quality standards for new teachers. Duly recognized organizations acting as TEIs, in coordination with the DepED, the CHED, and other relevant stakeholders, shall ensure that the curriculum of these organizations meet the necessary quality standards for trained teachers.

"(c) x x x."

SEC. 5. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. *Expansion of E-GASTPE Beneficiaries.* — The benefits accorded by Republic Act No. 8545, or the "Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act", shall be extended to qualified students enrolled under the [enhanced] **RATIONALIZED** basic education.

~~"[The DepED shall engage the services of private education institutions and non-DepED schools offering senior high school through the programs under Republic Act No. 8545, and other financial arrangements formulated by the DepED and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) based on the principles of public private partnership.]"~~

SEC. 6. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* — The Secretary of Education shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of the ~~[enhanced]~~ **RATIONALIZED** basic education program, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepED. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of the ~~[enhanced]~~ **RATIONALIZED** basic education program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act."

SEC. 7. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. *Transitory Provisions.* — The DepED, the CHED and the TESDA shall formulate the appropriate strategies and mechanisms needed to ensure smooth transition from the existing ~~[ten (10) years basic education cycle to the]~~ enhanced basic education (K to 12) cycle **TO THE RATIONALIZED BASIC EDUCATION.** The strategies may cover changes in physical infrastructure, manpower, organizational and structural concerns, bridging models linking grade 10 competencies and the entry requirements of new tertiary curricula, and partnerships between the government and other entities. ~~[Modeling for senior high school may be implemented in selected schools to simulate the transition process and provide concrete data for the transition plan.]~~

~~"[To manage the initial implementation of the enhanced basic education program and mitigate the expected multi year low enrolment turnout for HEIs and Technical Vocational Institutions (TVIs) starting School Year 2016-2017,]~~ The DepED shall **CONTINUE TO** engage in partnerships with HEIs

and TVIs for the utilization of the latter's human and physical resources. Moreover, the DepED, the CHED, the TESDA, the TVIs and the HEIs shall coordinate closely with one another to implement strategies that ensure the academic, physical, financial, and human resource capabilities of HEIs and TVIs to provide educational and training services for graduates of the ~~[enhanced]~~ **RATIONALIZED** basic education program to ensure that they are not adversely affected. The faculty of HEIs and TVIs allowed to teach students of secondary education under Section 8 hereof, shall be given priority in hiring for the duration of the transition period. For this purpose, the transition period shall be provided for in the implementing rules and regulations (IRR)."

SEC. 8. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as follows:

*"SEC. 13. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the ~~[Enhanced]~~ **RATIONALIZED** Basic Educational Program ~~[(K to 12 Program)]~~. - There is hereby created a Joint Oversight Committee to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act.*

*"The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) members each from the Senate and from the House of Representatives, including Chairs of the Committees on **BASIC** Education ~~[Arts and Culture,]~~ and Finance of both Houses. The membership of the Committee for every House shall have at least two (2) opposition or minority members."*

SEC. 9. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 10533 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 14. *Mandatory Evaluation and Review.* — ~~[By the end of School Year 2014-2015]~~ **FIVE (5) YEARS AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT**, the DepED shall conduct a mandatory review and submit a midterm report to Congress as to the status of implementation of the ~~[K to 12]~~ **RATIONALIZED BASIC EDUCATION** program in terms of closing the following current shortages: (a) teachers; (b) classrooms; (c) textbooks; (d) seats; (e) toilets; and (f) other shortages that should be addressed.

"x x x."

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* In the event that any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,