

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL No. 3727



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM

AN ACT
INTEGRATING A COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER SKILLS EDUCATION PROGRAM
IN THE K TO 12 CURRICULUM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines¹ is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries. Being geographically situated along the boundary of major tectonic plates and at the center of a typhoon belt, its islands are regularly impacted by floods, typhoons, landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes, and droughts.

In comparison, we have developed robust coping mechanisms over our long history of experience with disasters. Yet, significant gaps in disaster management capacities across different regions remain prevalent. While many policy proposals have already been docketed in the legislative mill, the preparedness level of our people is best secured if we focus on educating them.

We must ensure that we give our people the proper education, skills, and training to deal with the various calamities that continually devastate our lands. Moreover, we must provide these life skills to our people at the earliest possible opportunity to allow them to deal with these disasters. The best time to teach our citizens to deal with natural disasters is to train them during their primary schooling until they graduate from their secondary education. Hence, the State must mandate all private and public schools to include a comprehensive program that will teach students how to prepare, deal with, and adapt to the various natural disasters in our country.

Although some programs and specific months or days teach about different disasters, such as fire, flood, and earthquakes, it is insufficient to provide the necessary skills to deal with the ever-increasing frequency and severity of calamities. With comprehensive skills that allow us to prepare for, survive, and deal with the aftermath of these disasters, we can save our citizens' lives, properties, and future. We have a duty to the generations yet to come to act immediately on this matter. We must work now. In view thereof, the immediate approval of this bill is respectfully requested.


REP. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM

¹ The Philippines also ranks among the top countries in the world for population exposure and vulnerability to hazards.

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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 "Disaster Skills Program Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to ensure the safety and security of the lives and properties of its citizens during the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters occurring in the Philippines by providing its citizens with proper education, skills, and training. Therefore, this will ensure that they are prepared and able to survive the aftermath of the violent acts of nature.

SEC. 3. *Disaster Skills Education.* – The program will include a comprehensive module system that will teach disaster preparedness, assembly of disaster kits, first aid and survival skills, adapting to limited resources, dealing with the aftermath of the disasters, and other essential skills, which are hereby required to be part of the curriculum for the K to 12 Program.

SEC. 4. *Integration into the Curriculum.* – Basic survival, first aid skills and preparedness education shall be made part of the elementary education, while more advanced skills shall be included in the junior and senior high school curricula.

SEC. 5. *Teaching Modules.* – The scope of the teaching modules for each grade level shall be identified by the Department of Education (DepEd) in collaboration with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), taking into consideration the age, level of comprehension, and particular needs of the specific regions of the students.

SEC. 6. *Educational Materials.* – Private and public elementary and secondary schools shall keep in their libraries an adequate number of textbooks, primers, charts, and leaflets on disaster preparedness, survival skills, coping with the aftermath, and other related materials, as prepared and required by the DepEd.

SEC. 7. *Funding Source.* – To carry out the purposes of this Act, the funding shall be sourced from the allocation for the DepEd as provided in the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the annual expenditures shall be provided in the allocation for the DepEd as stated in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementation.* – Within ninety (90) days after the implementation of this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the NDRRMC and DILG, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to govern the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 10. *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 is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,