

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3788**



Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed bill addresses a crucial aspect of educational infrastructure: the standardization of ceiling height in DepEd classrooms. The aim is twofold: to mitigate overheating and to facilitate adequate air circulation within classrooms. By mandating a ceiling height of four (4) meters, this bill seeks to create an optimal learning environment that promotes comfort and enhances the overall well-being of students and teachers.

We recognize that DepEd already has standards for classroom specifications. However, in light of current climatic conditions brought about by climate change and increasing global temperatures year on year, it is imperative to update these standards. Raising the ceiling height from two point seven (2.7) meters to four (4) meters will help alleviate classroom overheating, creating a more conducive environment for learning.

Quality school infrastructure is fundamental to achieving national educational objectives. By redesigning and standardizing ceiling height, DepEd demonstrates its commitment to providing safe, secure, and conducive learning environments for all students, regardless of geographical location or socioeconomic status.

The classroom environment significantly impacts students' ability to learn, because overheating can hinder concentration and impede cognitive function. By standardizing ceiling height to mitigate overheating, this bill ensures that classrooms are conducive to learning, thereby promoting better academic outcomes.

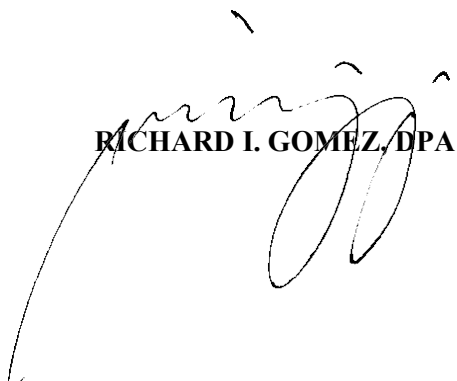
Adequate air circulation is essential for maintaining indoor air quality, which directly affects students' health and well-being. Standardizing ceiling height allows for better airflow, reducing the risk of airborne pollutants and enhancing overall comfort within the classroom.

This bill draws upon existing guidelines and initiatives within DepEd, such as DepEd Order No. 64, s. 2017, and DepEd Order No. 6, s. 2021, which establishes minimum performance standards and

specifications for school buildings. It also takes into account the Philippines' susceptibility to natural disasters and the need for resilient infrastructure.

The standardization of ceiling height in DepEd classrooms is a vital component of efforts to enhance the quality, safety, and resilience of educational infrastructure. By enacting this bill, we not only create better learning environments for current students but also lay the foundation for a more sustainable and inclusive education system for generations to come.

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



RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

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AN ACT
STANDARDIZING CEILING HEIGHT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
(DEPED) CLASSROOMS TO MITIGATE OVERHEATING AND FACILITATE AIR
CIRCULATION

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 "*DepEd Classroom Ceiling Standardization Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the safety, comfort, and conducive learning environment of students in all educational institutions. Recognizing the crucial role of proper classroom design in achieving this objective, this Act seeks to standardize the ceiling height of Department of Education (DepEd) classrooms to mitigate overheating and facilitate air circulation, thereby enhancing the overall learning experience.

SEC. 3. *Standardized Ceiling Height.* – The ceiling height of all newly constructed DepEd classrooms shall be standardized to four (4) meters. This specification aims to improve air circulation and reduce the effects of overheating within the classroom environment.

SEC. 4. *Compliance with Existing Standards.* – The standardized ceiling height of four (4) meters shall be incorporated into the Minimum Performance and Standard Specifications (MPSS) for DepEd school buildings. This shall be an addition to, or modification of the existing standards, ensuring that all new classroom constructions adhere to this updated specification.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Appropriation.* –The funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current budget of the DepEd. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,