

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 3987



Introduced by **Representative Binky April M. Tupas**

AN ACT
CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NORTHERN ILOILO DIVISION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Constitution affirms the role of the State to safeguard and advance every citizen’s entitlement to quality education and to ensure that this right is available from the early stages through to the highest level of learning.

Northern Iloilo is composed of geographically diverse and densely populated municipalities with a significant number of public elementary and secondary schools, many of which are located in coastal, upland, and island barangays. Currently, these schools fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education (DepEd) Division of Iloilo, which covers the entire province except Iloilo City. The vast coverage of the current division poses a challenge resulting in administrative congestion, slowed routing support, logistical challenges, and weakened supervisory oversight in remote, distant schools.

The establishment of the DepEd Northern Iloilo Division will shift the bureaucratic center of management and service delivery much nearer to learners, teachers, and communities. This is necessary to:

1. Bring the education bureaucracy closer to schools, teachers, and learners in the area;
2. Ensure faster and more responsive delivery of basic education programs and services;
3. Strengthen school-based management, technical support at the local level, and monitoring capabilities of local school governance groups;
4. Facilitate better planning, supervision, and monitoring of island and remote schools; and

5. Promote equitable distribution of infrastructure and support funds and more focused support for teachers and administrators.

The DepEd Northern Iloilo Division will include municipalities of Ajuy, Balasan, Barotac Viejo, Batad, Carles, Concepcion, Estancia, Lemery, San Dionisio, Sara, and San Rafael. Other municipalities may be included as determined by the DepEd after due consultation.

This measure is a strategic investment in the future of learners from underserved and vulnerable communities. This is in alignment with the goals of Republic Act No. 9155, the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001, which decentralizes education administration and consolidates school governance through the creation of localized divisions.

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


BINKY APRIL M. TUPAS

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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 “*DepEd Northern Iloilo Division Act of 2025.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote accessible, efficient, and equitable education governance, to strengthen the delivery of basic education services at the local level, and to decentralize administrative functions in order to improve responsiveness and reduce congestion in existing Department of Education (DepEd) divisions.

SEC. 3. Creation of the Department of Education Northern Iloilo Division. – There is hereby created a separate and independent Department of Education Northern Iloilo Division, under the administrative supervision of the DepEd Regional Office VI (Western Visayas).

SEC. 4. Jurisdiction and Coverage. – The DepEd Northern Iloilo Division shall have jurisdiction over the following municipalities: ***Ajuy, Balasan, Barotac Viejo, Batad, Carles, Concepcion, Estancia, Lemery, San Dionisio, Sara, San Rafael.*** Additional municipalities may be included as determined by the DepEd after due consultation.

SEC. 5. Organizational Structure. – The new division shall be headed by a School Division Superintendent, assisted by one (1) Assistant Schools Division Superintendent. It shall likewise be composed of education supervisors, section heads, program specialists, field supervisors, and appropriate administrative and support personnel as may be determined by the Department of Education in accordance with *plantilla* standards and regional requirements.

SEC. 6. Powers and Functions. – The DepEd Northern Iloilo Division shall:

- (a) Supervise the operation of public elementary and secondary schools within its jurisdiction;
- (b) Implement policies, plans, and programs of the Department;
- (c) Provide technical assistance to schools and learning centers;
- (d) Oversee personnel management, budgeting, procurement, and monitoring; and
- (e) Engage in local government units, civil society organizations, and community stakeholders in school improvement initiatives.

SEC. 7. *Transition and Implementation.* – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary orders for the creation of the new division. An interim transition team shall be constituted to manage personnel reassignment and hiring, office establishment, logistics, and the finalization of school mapping and jurisdictional delineation.

SEC. 8. *Funding and Appropriations.* – The initial funding necessary for the operation of the new division shall be charged against the current budget of the Department of Education. Thereafter, its operational requirements shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Local Government Units (LGUs) may likewise extend counterpart support.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.