

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



HOUSE BILL NO. 4554

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Schools are intended to be safe spaces where young people can learn and thrive. Yet, more than a decade since the enactment of the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013, bullying continues to endanger the well-being of Filipino students.

On 13 June 2024, researchers from the De La Salle University and the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2) released a series of studies¹ confirming the extent of this problem. Their findings show that bullying remains pervasive, undermining not only academic performance but also the confidence and mental health of children. International reports highlight the same concern. The 2022 Program from International Student Assessment (PISA) results, while showing slight improvement from 2018, remain alarming: nearly one in three Filipino students continue to experience bullying, with 43% of girls and 53% of boys admitting to being bullied repeatedly.

The urgency of this problem was once again brought to light just recently in Iligan City, where five high school students physically attacked a nine-year-old elementary pupil.² The incident was so severe that the young victim required confinement in the intensive care unit of a hospital. This heartbreaking case underscores the inadequacy of existing mechanisms in

¹ EDCOM 2 Communications. (2024, June 13). *High incidence of bullying in PH public schools alarming – EDCOM 2*. EDCOM 2. <https://edcom2.gov.ph/high-incidence-of-bullying-in-ph-public-schools-alarming-edcom-2/>

² Ermac, B. (2025, August 12). *Grade 3 pupil mauled by 4 Grade 8 students in Iligan City*. Manila Bulletin. <https://mb.com.ph/2025/08/12/grade-3-pupil-mauled-by-4-grade-8-students-in-iligan-city>

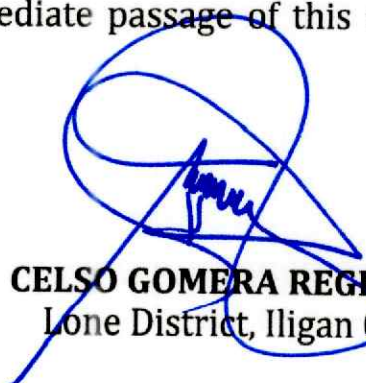
fully protecting children. It demonstrates the urgent need for stronger safeguards.

Despite the existence of the law, significant gaps persist. Reporting mechanisms are inconsistent, and official data does not reflect the actual experiences of learners. As a result, countless incidents go unreported and unresolved, leaving many children vulnerable. This bill proposes concrete measures to close these gaps.

This bill proposes that all students be oriented on anti-bullying policies on the first day of every school year, with parents receiving the same orientation during the first Parent-Teacher Association meeting. To reinforce accountability and ensure consistent enforcement, the bill further requires that the Philippine National Police (PNP) conduct quarterly anti-bullying briefings in schools, in partnership with education stakeholders, to strengthen awareness, improve reporting, and promote safe school environments.

By institutionalizing these orientations and regular PNP-led briefings, we ensure that anti-bullying safeguards are not only written into law but actively practiced in every school community. In doing so, we uphold the right of every Filipino child to learn in an environment that is safe, supportive, and free from fear.

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



CELSON GOMERA REGENCIA
Lone District, Iligan City

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**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 4554

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PREVENTION OF BULLYING IN SCHOOLS BY
MANDATING ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES AND QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS
CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10627, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “ANTI-
BULLYING ACT OF 2013”**

*Be it enacted by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines
in session assembled:*

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10627, otherwise known as the “Anti-Bullying Act of 2013,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 3. *Adoption of Anti-Bullying Policies.* – All elementary and secondary schools are directed to adopt policies to address the existence of bullying in their respective institutions. Such policies shall be regularly updated and, at a minimum, shall include provisions which:

xxx

(f) Educate students on the dynamics of bullying, the anti-bullying policies of the school as well as the mechanisms of such school for the anonymous reporting of acts of bullying or retaliation THROUGH A MANDATORY ORIENTATION CONDUCTED WITHIN SCHOOL PREMISES ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES, AND WITH REINFORCEMENT DURING THE QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE;

(g) Educate parents and guardians about the dynamics of bullying, the anti-bullying policies of the school and how parents and guardians can provide support and reinforce such policies at home DURING THE FIRST PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION MEETING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR TO BE HELD WITHIN SCHOOL PREMISES, AND WITH REINFORCEMENT DURING THE QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE; and

xxx

SECTION 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10627, otherwise known as the “Anti-Bullying Act of 2013,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. *Mechanisms to Address Bullying.* – The school principal or any person who holds a comparable role shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of policies intended to address bullying.

xxx If it is determined that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the school principal or the designated school officer or person shall:

(a) Notify the law enforcement agency if the school principal or designee believes that criminal charges under the Revised Penal Code *VIS-A-VIS* THE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175 (ANTI-CYBERCRIME ACT OF 2012) MAY BE PURSUED AGAINST THE PERPETRATOR;

SECTION 3. Section 6 thereof, with the heading *Sanction for Noncompliance*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 6. *Sanction for Noncompliance.* – In the rules and regulations to be implemented pursuant to this Act, the Secretary of the DepED shall prescribe the appropriate administrative sanctions on school administrators who shall fail to comply with the requirements under this Act. In addition thereto, erring private schools shall likewise suffer the penalty of suspension of their permits to operate, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO CIVIL LIABILITY *EX DELICTO* AND/OR VICARIOUS LIABILITY *IN LOCO PARENTIS* ARISING FROM ARTICLE 2180 OF THE CIVIL CODE.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,