

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5227



Introduced by **Representative AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" A. CRUZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is often said to be the great equalizer. The Philippine experience reminds us that education can also be the great unfinished business in nation-building. In 2022, Congress created the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) through Republic Act No. 11899, to undertake a comprehensive national assessment and craft recommendations that would guide transformative, long-term, and systemic reforms in the education sector.

In just three years, EDCOM II has embarked on an unprecedented agenda: gathering key data, conducting nationwide consultations, engaging various stakeholders, and producing various reports and research papers on early childhood care and development (ECCD), basic education, higher education, and teacher education and development. The breadth of its work has revealed the enormity of the task at hand. Three years, while productive, is not enough to address decades of accumulated challenges. Reforms of such scale require continuity, institutional memory, and deliberate follow-through.

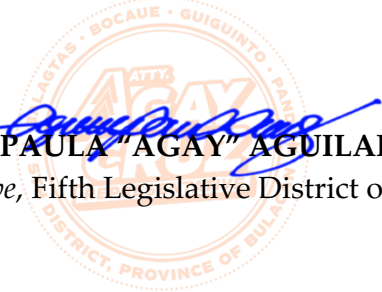
This measure seeks to extend the life of EDCOM II for an additional two years, not to prolong the process, but to strengthen its purpose. The extension will enable the Commission to conduct further research and consultations, exercise oversight on the initial implementation of its recommendations, and coordinate more effectively with key agencies and stakeholders. More importantly, it will provide Congress with a comprehensive Continuity Report to ensure that reforms do not end as mere proposals on paper but take root as policies in practice.

The bill also includes a clear budgetary provision to guarantee feasibility and maintain accountability, ensuring that EDCOM II's extended work is adequately supported and effectively carried out.

Education is a long game. It requires vision, patience, and resolve. By enacting this measure, Congress affirms that education reform is not a sprint but a marathon. And just

as the first step began with EDCOM II's creation, the next crucial stride is to give it the time it needs to finish what it started.

With the belief that in education, as in lawmaking, the best reforms are not the quickest, but the most enduring, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


AGATHA PAULA "AGAY" AGUILAR CRUZ
Representative, Fifth Legislative District of Bulacan

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AN ACT
EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION
ON EDUCATION (EDCOM II), AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11899,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “SECOND CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON
EDUCATION (EDCOM II) ACT” TO ENSURE CONTINUITY IN EDUCATION
REFORM

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “EDCOM II Extension and
2 Continuity Act.”
3

4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** –It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 ensure the continuity and institutionalization of reforms in the education sector by
6 extending the mandate of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM
7 II). The State recognizes the need for sustained research, consultation, and oversight to
8 guarantee that education and workforce development systems are aligned with national
9 development priorities and responsive to labor market needs.
10

11 **Section 3. Amendment of Section 6 of Republic Act No. 11899.** – Section 6 of
12 Republic Act No. 11899, or the “Second Congressional Commission on Education
13 (EDCOM II) Act”, is hereby amended to read as follows:
14

15 “Section 6. Duration of EDCOM II. — The Commission shall
16 accomplish its mandate within three (3) years from its organization. It shall
17 organize itself and commence its mandate upon the effectivity of this Act.
18

19 **UPON COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL THREE-YEAR**
20 **MANDATE, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONTINUE TO OPERATE**
21 **FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF TWO (2) YEARS, SPECIFICALLY**
22 **TO:**

- 1
2 (a) CONDUCT FURTHER RESEARCH AND
3 CONSULTATIONS, AS NECESSARY;
4 (b) EXERCISE OVERSIGHT ON THE INITIAL
5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION
6 AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLANS; AND
7 (c) COORDINATE WITH RELEVANT AGENCIES AND
8 STAKEHOLDERS TO ALIGN EDUCATION AND
9 TRAINING SYSTEMS WITH NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
10 PRIORITIES AND LABOR MARKET NEEDS AND TO
11 ENSURE THAT LONG-TERM REFORMS ARE
12 INSTITUTIONALIZED.

13
14 WITHIN THIS EXTENSION PERIOD, THE TECHNICAL
15 SECRETARIAT SHALL SUBMIT TO CONGRESS AND THE
16 PRESIDENT A FINAL CONTINUITY REPORT CONTAINING ITS
17 UPDATED FINDINGS, OVERSIGHT OBSERVATIONS, AND
18 RECOMMENDED LONG-TERM REFORMS FOR INSTITUTIONAL
19 ADOPTION.”

20
21 **Section 4. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the extended operations of
22 EDCOM II shall be charged against the available appropriations of the Senate and the
23 House of Representatives. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continuous
24 implementation, including any deficiency in the current year, shall be included in the
25 annual General Appropriations Act subject to existing budgeting, accounting and
26 auditing rules and regulations.

27
28 **Section 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
29 administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with
30 or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

31
32 **Section 6. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
33 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

34
35 *Approved,*