

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 5605

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

**AN ACT
INTEGRATING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SUBJECT INTO
THE CURRICULA OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is among the countries frequently affected by natural calamities. Situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire, it is highly susceptible to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. In recent days, the country has experience a series of significant earthquakes, with magnitudes of 7.4 and 6.8 recorded off the coast of Davao Oriental on October 10, 2025.

On September 30, 2025, a 6.9-magnitude earthquake struck Bogo City, Cebu, resulting 76 fatalities. According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the earthquake affected 748,028 individuals or 216,962 families in Central Visayas, damaged 134,227 houses, and destroyed 959 infrastructures worth P6,676,661.00.¹ Subsequent tremors were felt in Baguio and parts of Central Luzon, causing continued anxiety among residents and rendering various structures unsafe for use.

¹ <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/regions/962621/cebu-earthquake-death-toll-now-76-ndrrmc/story/>

Aside from earthquakes, the country is constantly battered by an average of 20 typhoons annually. The most recent, Typhoon Paolo, caused widespread damage in Cagayan Valley. Super Typhoon Nando, considered the strongest this year with sustained winds of 265kph on September 21, 2025, together with Typhoon Mirasol, resulted in initial agricultural losses amounting to P565.05 million, affecting 17,061 farmers and production losses of 49, 896 metric tons across 16, 120 hectares of farmland in affected such as Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, MIMAROPA, and Western Visayas.²

Given the country's vulnerability to natural disasters, there is a compelling need to strengthen disaster preparedness and response at all levels of society. Republic Act No. 11211, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, already mandates the integration of disaster risk reduction education into the curricula of secondary and tertiary schools. However, there remains a gap in the comprehensive and systematic inclusion of disaster preparedness and response as a dedicated subject in both public and private elementary and high schools.

This bill seeks to address this gap by mandating the integration of Disaster Preparedness and Response as a subject in the curriculum of all public and private elementary and high schools. The objective is to promote awareness, build resilience, and equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to minimize casualties and losses when disasters occur.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is respectfully sought.


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

²<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1259516>



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House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title*-This Act shall be known as the “Disaster Preparedness for
2 *Elementary and High School Education Act”*

3 **SECTION 2.** *Integration of Disaster Preparedness and Response Subject*- All public and
4 private educational institutions shall integrate Disaster Preparedness and Response as a subject in
5 their respective curricula both for elementary and high school levels.

6 **SECTION 3.** *Implementing Rules and Education*- The Department of Education (DepEd)
7 in coordination with the National Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC),
8 Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PhiVolcs), Philippines Atmospheric
9 Geophysical and Astronomical Administration (PAGASA), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and
10 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall promulgate the implementing
11 rules and regulations within one hundred eighty days (180) from the effectivity of this Act.

12 **SECTION 4.** *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid
13 or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain valid.
14

1 **SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause***- All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders,
2 administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this
3 Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

4 **SECTION 6 *Effectivity***. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
5 in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

6 Approved,