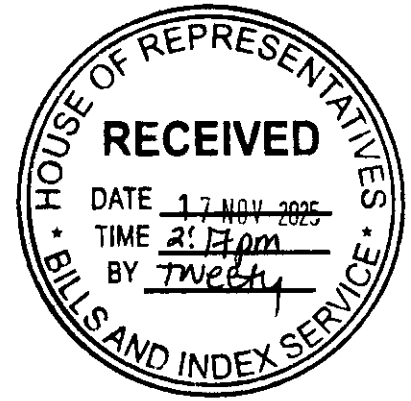


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6052



Introduced by Rep. Jaime R. Fresnedi

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The persistent shortage of classrooms in public basic education schools remains one of the most urgent challenges confronting the Philippine education system. Despite sustained government investments under the Basic Educational Facilities Fund (BEFF), the gap between the growing student population and available classrooms or learning spaces continues to widen. It is aggravated by rapid urbanization, population change, and the increasing weakness of existing school structures to natural hazards.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) under the Department of Education (DepEd). The CAP aims to accelerate the construction of classrooms through strategic partnerships with local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and other qualified entities, thereby mobilizing resources and capacities beyond the national government.

A key enhancement introduced in this measure is the inclusion of a section which mandates the use of proper cost estimation standards, adherence to prevailing market rates for materials and labor, and the adoption of sound accounting and auditing practices by involving the participation of competent industry representatives from the private sector. This provision ensures that classroom construction projects are not only fast-tracked but also implemented with transparency, integrity, and value-for-money, thus safeguarding public funds against perennial overpricing, underestimation, and inefficiency.

The Declaration of Policy likewise underscores the State's commitment to participatory governance, fiscal accountability, and the responsible management of public resources in the pursuit of equitable access to education. By aligning cost management practices with good governance principles, this measure aims to transform the way educational infrastructure projects are planned, financed, and delivered.

In sum, this bill represents a concrete step toward closing the classroom gap while promoting accountability, efficiency, and collaboration across sectors. Ensuring that every Filipino

learner has a safe and conducive space to learn is not merely a matter of infrastructure but a matter of equity, dignity, and the future of our nation.

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


JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6052

Introduced by **Rep. Jaime R. Fresnedi**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE CLASSROOM-BUILDING ACCELERATION
PROGRAM (CAP) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
AUTHORIZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANIZATIONS TO UNDERTAKE CLASSROOM CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) Act.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold the right of every Filipino learner to quality, accessible, safe, and adequate educational facilities by addressing the persistent shortage of classrooms across the country. Toward this end, the State shall adopt accelerated, transparent, and cost-efficient approaches to classroom construction through strengthened partnerships among the Department of Education, local government units, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.

The State likewise affirms its commitment to ensure that all classroom construction projects are implemented in accordance with sound cost estimation standards, prevailing market rates for materials and labor, and good accounting and auditing practices. These measures shall guarantee that public funds are utilized efficiently and with integrity, thereby promoting transparency, accountability, and value-for-money in the delivery of basic education infrastructure.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

(a) Department – refers to the Department of Education (DepEd);

(b) Local Government Units (LGUs) – refer to provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays as defined in Republic Act No. 7160;

(c) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) – refer to non-governmental, non-profit organizations with proven track record in implementing development programs;

(d) Classroom – refers to any permanent structure used for instruction and learning activities;

(e) Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) – refers to the program established under this Act to facilitate classroom construction through multi-stakeholder partnerships.

SEC. 4. Establishment of the Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP). – There is hereby established a Classroom-Building Acceleration Program (CAP) under the Department of Education. The Program shall authorize the Department, LGUs, and CSOs to propose, undertake, and implement classroom construction projects funded under national government appropriations and other allowable sources.

SEC. 5. Qualifying Criteria for CAP. – CAP projects shall prioritize schools experiencing severe classroom shortages, schools located in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), areas with high population growth, and other priority areas identified by the Department.

SEC. 6. Eligibility of Proponents. – LGUs and CSOs may participate in the CAP as project implementers, provided that they meet the technical, financial, and institutional capacity requirements prescribed by the Department.

SEC. 7. Submission and Review of Project Proposals. – All project proposals shall be submitted to the Department for technical evaluation and approval. The Department shall establish a streamlined process for submission, validation, and review.

SEC. 8. Program Management. – A Program Management Office (PMO) shall be created under the DepEd Central Office to oversee CAP implementation and ensure compliance with technical and financial standards.

SEC. 9. Standards for Classroom Building. – All classroom construction projects under this Act shall comply with the Department's Minimum Performance Standards and Specifications (MPSS), which shall include provisions on structural safety, disaster resilience, inclusivity, and accessibility.

SEC. 10. Funding Conditions and Classroom Cost Ceilings. – The Department shall set cost ceilings for classroom construction based on standard designs and prevailing cost indicators. Regional variations may be allowed, subject to justifiable conditions.

SEC. 11. Standardization of Cost Estimates, Material Rates, and Accounting Practices. – All classroom construction projects undertaken under the CAP shall adhere to the following:

(a) Proper Cost Estimation Standards — The cost of classroom construction shall be based on duly approved and updated cost estimates prescribed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) together with competent industry representatives from the private sector, ensuring that project costs are reasonable, transparent, and reflective of actual requirements.

(b) Prevailing Market Rates for Materials and Labor — Prices of materials, labor, and other construction inputs shall conform to prevailing market rates in the locality where the project is implemented. Such rates shall be periodically reviewed and validated by the DepEd, in coordination with competent industry representatives from the private sector and concerned LGUs, to prevent overpricing or underestimation.

(c) Adoption of Good Practices in Cost Accounting and Financial Reporting — Implementing units shall adopt sound cost accounting systems and maintain accurate financial and project records. All expenditures shall comply with existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

(d) Transparency and Oversight — All implementing units shall make publicly available the project cost breakdown, procurement details, and audit reports through the DepEd website, local government portals, or other appropriate means, consistent with applicable transparency and freedom of information laws.

SEC. 12. Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms. – The Department shall publish a consolidated report of all approved CAP projects, including project cost, status, and implementing entities, on its official website.

SEC. 13. Direct Participation of Civil Society Organizations. – The Department, in coordination with the DBM, GPPB, and COA, shall issue simplified rules and procedures to facilitate CSO participation in classroom construction and monitoring.

SEC. 14. Joint Congressional Oversight Committee. – A Joint Congressional Oversight Committee (JCOC) composed of Members of both Houses of Congress shall monitor implementation and conduct periodic reviews every five (5) years.

SEC. 15. Sunset Provision. – The CAP shall remain in effect until the nationwide classroom backlog has been substantially reduced or addressed, as certified by the Department and validated by Congress.

SEC. 16. Appropriations. – Funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the Basic Educational Facilities Fund (BEFF) under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 17. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations.

SEC. 18. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 19. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 20. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,