

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6928**



Introduced by Representative Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare all educational institutions as weapon-free zones and provide penalties for violation thereof.

The safety of learners, teachers, and school personnel lies at the heart of the mission of every educational institution. Schools must foster an environment that encourages learning and growth, one free from fear, violence, and intimidation. The presence of firearms and other deadly weapons not only threatens lives but also erodes the sense of security necessary for education to thrive.

The urgency of this measure is underscored by recent, deeply troubling incidents that have shaken communities and exposed critical gaps in school safety. In Nueva Ecija, a male student fatally shot a female classmate inside their classroom before turning the weapon on himself. In another incident in Lanao del Sur, a teacher was killed by a Grade 11 student just outside the school premises. These tragedies serve as stark reminders that even a single weapon within or near the school environment can lead to irreversible loss and trauma.

National laws already restrict the possession and use of weapons. Republic Act No. 10591, or the "*Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act*," prohibits unauthorized ownership and carrying of firearms. Batas Pambansa Blg. 6 further penalizes the unlawful carrying of bladed, pointed, or blunt weapons outside one's residence. Complementing these, the Department of Education's Child Protection Policy and school-issued student handbooks expressly prohibit weapons on campus and during school-related activities.

Yet, despite existing prohibitions, violent incidents continue to occur within and around educational institutions. This troubling reality reveals that enforcement alone is insufficient. There is an urgent need for a more explicit and comprehensive policy framework, one that unequivocally designates all educational institutions as weapon-free zones and establishes proactive, context-sensitive measures to prevent, address, and deter violations. Such a framework must also reinforce the shared responsibility of government agencies, school administrations, families, and communities in safeguarding the sanctity and safety of learning environments.

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



JULIUS CESAR “JAY” V. VERGARA

HOUSE BILL NO. **6928**

Introduced by Representative Julius Cesar “Jay” V. Vergara

**AN ACT
DECLARING ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AS WEAPON-
FREE ZONES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION
THEREOF**

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “*Educational Institutions Protection Act.*”

SEC. 2. Except as otherwise provided under Section 3 of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to possess, carry, transport, or use any firearm, explosive, or any other implement or article that may reasonably be construed as capable of causing physical harm to another individual:

(a) Within the premises of any educational institution;

(b) Within a thirty (30)-meter radius surrounding such premises; or

(c) Inside school vehicles, school facilities, or any other property used for official school-related activities, regardless of whether such property is owned by the educational institution or located outside its registered address.

SEC. 3. The prohibition under Section 2 of this Act shall not apply to the following:

1 (a) Law enforcement officers or security personnel who are duly
2 authorized by law and assigned to secure the educational institution, provided that
3 their possession or use of firearms, explosives, or other potentially harmful
4 implements is strictly within the scope of their official duties and subject to
5 institutional coordination;

6 (b) Individuals who are granted prior written authorization by the school
7 administration for legitimate educational, ceremonial, or training purposes,
8 including authorized demonstrations, theatrical performances, or sanctioned
9 drills; and

10 (c) Instances where possession or transport of such articles is necessary
11 for emergency response, disaster preparedness, or other lawful activities
12 expressly permitted by applicable regulations, provided that such use is
13 coordinated with the school administration and relevant authorities.

14 SEC. 4. Educational institutions shall adopt and implement internal
15 policies and protocols to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act. These
16 include the following:

17 (a) Designation of safety officers or authorized personnel responsible for
18 monitoring and reporting violations within school premises and related facilities;

19 (b) Coordination with local law enforcement agencies and relevant
20 government bodies for the enforcement of this Act, especially in cases involving
21 imminent threats or actual breaches;

1 (c) Conduct of regular orientation and awareness programs for students,
2 faculty, staff, and stakeholders regarding prohibited articles and the legal
3 consequences of violations;

4 (d) Installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) and security cameras
5 in classrooms and major areas within school premises and other strategic areas,
6 x-rays or metal detectors in all ingress; and

7 (e) Submission of incident reports and compliance updates to the
8 appropriate regulatory agency, as may be required by implementing rules and
9 regulations.

10 Failure to comply with these responsibilities may subject the institution to
11 administrative sanctions, as determined by the appropriate government authority.

12 SEC. 5. Any person found guilty of violating Section 2 of this Act shall,
13 upon conviction, be subject to the penalty of *prision correccional* in its minimum
14 period to *prision correccional* in its medium period or a fine of not less than Ten
15 thousand pesos (P10,000.00) nor more than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00)
16 or both, at the discretion of the court, without prejudice to any other offenses
17 committed under existing laws.

18 SEC. 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
19 Secretary of Education, Commissioner on Higher Education, Director General of
20 the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and the Chairperson
21 of the Legal Education Board, in coordination with law enforcement agencies and

representatives from public and private educational institutions, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. All other laws, decrees, ordinances, rules and regulations, executive or administrative orders, and other presidential issuances inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,