

Congress of the Philippines]
TWENTIETH CONGRESS]
First Regular Session]

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Regular Session

House Bill. No. 7350



BY REPRESENTATIVE SUN J. SHIMURA

**AN ACT DEFINING CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND ENHANCING THE
AUTHORITY OF EDUCATORS IN DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The school is the primary institutional partner of the home in forming the character of the youth and, ultimately, the future of the nation. To fulfill this mandate, teachers must have clear and secure authority to impose reasonable discipline that corrects misconduct and shapes students into responsible pillars of society.

While the State has advanced child protection and restorative justice, recent data from the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) underscore the need to reinforce school-based discipline. Reported Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) peaked in 2017 at 26,850 and then generally declined—15,892 in 2020; 11,696 in 2021; 6,185 in 2022; a temporary rise to 10,035 in 2023; and 4,383 in 2024. However, as of June 2025, 5,698 CICL have already been reported, surpassing the total for the entire year 2024.¹

This reversal of the downward trend calls for a firm yet balanced response. Society has a clear interest in ensuring that children learn accountability, respect for authority, and adherence to rules at an early age. At the same time, educators must be protected from unfounded criminal and administrative charges when they impose proportionate and good-faith disciplinary measures.

This bill therefore seeks to: (1) define and prohibit corporal punishment that is excessive, degrading, or abusive; (2) affirm the authority of teachers and school officials to impose appropriate disciplinary measures consistent with the best interests of the child; and (3) provide safeguards that shield educators from unjustified liability when acting within clearly defined professional standards.

¹ 2016-2025 JJWC Report on CIC, https://jjwcgovph-my.sharepoint.com/personal/gdgutierrez_jjwc_gov_ph/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fgdgutierrez%2Fjjwc%2Fgov%2Fph%2FDocuments%2FCICL%20Report%202016%20%2D%20June%202025%2Epdf&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fgdgutierrez%2Fjjwc%2Fgov%2Fph%2FDocuments&ga=1.

By clarifying what is prohibited and affirming what is lawful, this measure strengthens the hand of teachers to guide our youth while ensuring that children remain protected from abuse. In turn, it aims to secure safe, orderly, and values-oriented schools that produce responsible citizens and stronger communities.

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



REP. SUN J. SHIMURA

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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 "Anti-Corporal Punishment Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy — Article II, Section 13 of the Constitution recognizes the vital role of youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. This Act reinforces the authority of educators to enforce reasonable discipline, while protecting children from excessive or abusive corporal punishment. It defines permissible disciplinary measures and ensures safeguards for educators acting in good faith and professional standards from unjust legal actions.

Positive and Non-Violent Discipline of Children is preferred which is a practical, holistic approach to teaching that emphasizes guiding children's development through constructive, proactive methods. It involves setting clear, long-term goals for their moral and social growth, using daily interactions as teaching moments to instill life-long skills and values. This approach recognizes children as full human beings with rights and aims to foster their self-discipline by promoting appropriate behavior and thinking in both the short and long term.

SEC. 3. Corporal Punishment – refers to any form of discipline or penalty imposed for an alleged or actual offense by a teacher, school administrator, adult, or any other child authorized or responsible for discipline. It includes physical, humiliating, or degrading punishment, but explicitly emphasizes that prohibited acts are strictly limited to excessive, cruel, or degrading acts. Such acts include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Blows such as, but not limited to, forceful strikes, kicks, hits, slaps, or lashes that cause pain and are excessively unnecessary, directed at any part of a child's body, with or without the use of instruments such as, but not limited to, canes, brooms, sticks, whips, or belts.
2. Painfully striking of a child's face or head, such being declared as a "no contact zone";

3. Pulling hair, shaking, twisting joints, cutting or piercing skin, dragging, pushing or throwing of a child;
4. Forcing a child to perform physically painful or harmful acts, such as holding weights for extended periods or kneeling on stones, salt, pebbles, or other objects, **provided**, however, that this does not include disciplinary actions where the child is required to stand outside the classroom to reflect or where the student is asked to clean certain areas of the school premises or similar acts that do not necessarily humiliate the student.
5. Deprivation of a child's physical needs as a form of punishment;
6. Deliberate exposure to fire, ice, water, smoke, sunlight, rain, pepper, alcohol, or forcing the child to swallow substances, dangerous chemicals, and other materials that can cause discomfort or threaten the child's health, safety and sense of security such as, but not limited to bleach or insecticides, excrement or urine;
7. Tying up a child;
8. Confinement, imprisonment or depriving the liberty of a child;
9. Verbal abuse or assaults, including intimidation or threats of bodily harm, swearing or cursing, ridiculing or denigrating the child; **provided** that this does not include instances where a teacher reasonably calls out a student for inappropriate behavior in front of others, using proper language.
10. To undress or disrobe, or to put on anything that would cause a child to appear or feel foolish, **provided** that forcing a child to wear a sign shall not constitute corporal punishment if appropriate words are used, and that the use of such a sign is justified only if the student's act has been widely known within the school premises. It shall not be justified if the act was known only to a very few.
11. Permanent confiscation of personal property of pupils, students or learners, except when such pieces of property pose a danger to the child or to others; and
12. Other analogous acts.

SEC 4. Penal Provision – Any person who violates any provision of this Act, or its implementing rules and regulations, shall, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate administrative charges, be punished by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of prisión correccional, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 5. Prohibitions Against Harassment. — This Act shall not be used for persecution or harassment or as an instrument to be used against a school official.

No legal case pertaining to corporal punishment—be it criminal under this act, civil under the family code, or administrative—shall succeed unless proper conciliation procedures have been followed and all administrative remedies have been fully exhausted as outlined in the school manual.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. — If any provision or section of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid, the other provisions or sections of this Act, and the application of such provision or section to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, and other similar laws, as are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.