

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



HOUSE BILL NO. 7446

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING LOCAL RABIES CONTROL AND PREVENTION BY
MANDATING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CREATE LOCAL RABIES
PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMITTEES AND TO ESTABLISH LOCAL
VETERINARY OFFICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
9482, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-RABIES ACT OF 2007"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Zoonotic diseases, those transmitted from animals to humans, are an escalating threat to public health in the Philippines. The country's tropical climate, high population density, frequent human-animal contact, and limited veterinary and healthcare services create conditions for illnesses like rabies, swine fever, avian flu, and leptospirosis to persist, causing preventable deaths and economic losses. Central to this challenge is the inadequate structure and coordination of public health and veterinary services, especially at the local level.

The urgency is underscored by data from the Department of Health, which recorded 426 rabies-related deaths in 2024, nearly double the cases reported in 2020.¹ Nearly half of these fatalities were traced to domestic pets, while 56% involved animals with unknown vaccination status, especially in Central Luzon and CALABARZON. Despite this, the implementation of Republic Act No. 9482 remains uneven. Only provinces, cities, and first-class municipalities are required to appoint veterinarians and establish veterinary offices, and coordination among concerned agencies is inadequate, resulting in fragmented and inconsistent enforcement nationwide.

This bill seeks to close these gaps by mandating the creation of local rabies prevention and control committees, the appointment of local veterinarians, and the establishment of local veterinary offices. Strengthening local capacity will ensure effective vaccination programs, animal control, and public awareness, ultimately reducing, if not eliminating, rabies and other zoonotic diseases in the country.

¹ Bosano, R. (2025 March 17). *DOH records over 400 rabies cases in 2024, almost half from domestic pets*. ABS-CBN News. <https://www.abs-cbn.com/news/health-science/2025/3/17/doh-records-over-400-rabies-cases-in-2024-almost-half-from-domestic-pets-1428>

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



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO

Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "New Department of
2 Education (DepEd) Retirement Age Act".

3
4 Section 1. A new Section 4-A shall be inserted after Section 4 of Republic Act
5 No. 9482, which shall read as follows:

6
7 **"SEC. 4-A. LOCAL RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMITTEE. -**
8 **EACH PROVINCIAL, CITY, AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT SHALL**
9 **ESTABLISH ITS RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL COMMITTEE, TO BE**
10 **COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING:**

11 **(A) LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OR HIS/HER REPRESENTATIVE AS**
12 **CHAIRPERSON;**

13
14 **(B) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LOCAL SANGGUNIAN;**

15
16 **(C) REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROVINCIAL, CITY, OR MUNICIPAL**
17 **HEALTH OFFICE;**

18
19 **(D) REPRESENTATIVE OF PROVINCIAL, CITY, OR MUNICIPAL**
20 **VETERINARY OFFICE;**

21
22 **(E) REPRESENTATIVE OF SCHOOL DIVISION OFFICE OF THE**
23 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;**

1 (F) REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROVINCIAL, DISTRICT, CITY OR
2 MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE;
3 AND
4

5 (G) AT LEAST ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM NON-GOVERNMENT
6 AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN ANIMAL
7 WELFARE OR PUBLIC HEALTH
8

9 Sec. 2. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9482 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 "SEC. 7. Responsibilities of the LGUS. - LGUs, in their respective localities, shall:

11
12 xxx;

13 "(10) Appoint a veterinarian and establish a veterinary office in every province,
14 city and ~~first-class~~ municipality: Provided, ~~[That the other municipalities shall,~~
15 ~~on their own, opt to share the expense of having a veterinary office]~~
16

17 "xxx."
18

19 **Sec. 2. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations,
20 and other issuances or parts thereof, which are contrary or inconsistent with this Act
21 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

22 **SEC. 3. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, part of this Act shall be
23 rendered unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not
24 thereby affected shall continue to be in effect and full force.
25

26
27 **Sec. 4. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
28 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
29 circulation.
30

31 *Approved,*
32
33