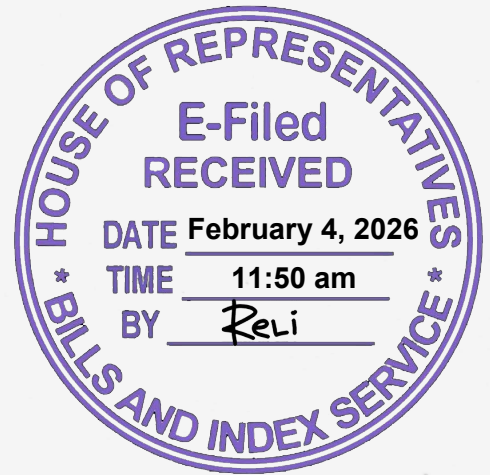


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7607



**Introduced by Representatives Roman T. Romulo, Jude A. Acidre,
Ziaur-Rahman "Zia" A. Adiong, Steve C. Solon,
and Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The governance of basic education has grown more complex with the rapid expansion of basic education schools, and the establishment of senior high schools over the past decade. As the number of schools governed and the number of students enrolled increase, the workload in the Department of Education (DepEd) regional offices, as well as the Schools Division Offices (SDOs), also increase.

This bill strengthens DepEd's regional offices by giving them the power to set the direction for their jurisdiction, allowing them to contextualize DepEd central office's policies for implementation in their area. Moreover, this bill also allows the establishment of more than one SDO in provinces, cities, and municipalities, subject to the Secretary's assessment of the area's overall profile, demographics, and geographic structure.

Furthermore, this bill recognizes the official title of the Minister of Basic, Higher and Technical Education of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and allows the DepEd to provide technical assistance and training programs to the divisions, districts, schools, and learning centers within the region.

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


ROMAN T. ROMULO
Lone District, Pasig City


JUDE A. ACIDRE
Tingog Party-list



ZIAUR-RAHMAN "ZIA" A. ADIONG
1st District, Lanao Del Sur



STEVE C. SOLON
Lone District, Sarangani



ANNA VICTORIA VELOSO-TUAZON
3^d District, Leyte

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**Introduced by Representatives Roman T. Romulo, Jude A. Acidre,
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**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT. NO. 9155, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"GOVERNANCE OF BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2001"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9155 is hereby amended as follows:

"Section 7. *Powers, Duties and Functions.* - x x x

"There shall be as many regional offices as may be provided by law. Each regional office shall have a director, an assistant director and an office staff for program promotion and support, planning, administrative, fiscal, LEGAL AND ANCILLARY services.

"Consistent with the national educational policies, plans and standards, the regional director shall have authority, accountability and responsibility for the following: x x x

"(4) CONTEXTUALIZE POLICIES OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE, PROVIDE DIRECTION SETTING FOR THE REGION, AND EXTEND SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE AND COHERENT

1 IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND
2 STANDARDS;

3 "C. Division Level

4 "AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, UPON
5 ASSESSMENT OF THE OVERALL PROFILE, DEMOGRAPHICS, AND GEOGRAPHIC
6 CONSIDERATIONS, A PROVINCE, CITY, OR MUNICIPALITY, OR A CLUSTER
7 THEREOF MAY CONSTITUTE A DIVISION OR DIVISIONS. [A division shall
8 consist of a province or a city which shall have] EACH DIVISION SHALL HAVE
9 a schools division superintendent, at least one assistant schools division
10 superintendent and an office staff for programs promotion, planning,
11 administrative, fiscal, legal, ancillary and other support services.

12 "Consistent with the national educational policies, plans and standards the
13 schools division superintendents shall have authority, accountability and
14 responsibility for the following: x x x

15 "D. School District Level

16 "Upon the recommendation of the schools division superintendents AND
17 APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, the regional director may
18 establish additional schools district within a schools division. School districts
19 already existing at tile time of the passage of the law shall be [maintained]
20 REVIEWED AND RATIONALIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OR HIS
21 DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE. A schools district shall have a schools
22 district supervisor and an office staff [for program promotion] STATIONED AT
23 SUCH DISTRICT. x x x

24 **SEC. 2.** Section 13 of Republic Act No. 9155 is hereby amended as follows:

25 "Section 13. *Governance in the BARMM.* - The [Regional Education
26 Secretary for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)] MINISTER
27 OF BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF THE BANGSAMORO
28 AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM) shall exercise similar
29 governance authority over the divisions, districts, schools and learning centers
30 in the region as may be provided in [the Organic Act without prejudice to the
31 provisions of Republic Act No. 9054, entitled "An Act to Strengthen and Expand
32 tile Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Amending for
33 the Purpose Republic Act No.6734, entitled "An Act Providing for the
34 Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, as amended"".] REPUBLIC ACT NO.
35 11054, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO
36 AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO."

1 "THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE
2 SECRETARY, MAY PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING
3 PROGRAMS TO THE DIVISIONS, DISTRICTS, SCHOOLS, AND LEARNING
4 CENTERS WITHIN BARMM."

5 **SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from
6 the implementation of this Act, the DepEd shall promulgate the rules and regulations
7 for the effective implementation of this Act.

8 **SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 9155 is hereby amended. All laws,
9 presidential decrees, executive orders, resolutions, rules and regulations or parts
10 thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
11 amended accordingly.

12 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision of this Act or any part
13 hereof be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby
14 shall remain in force and effect.

15 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
16 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

17 Approved,