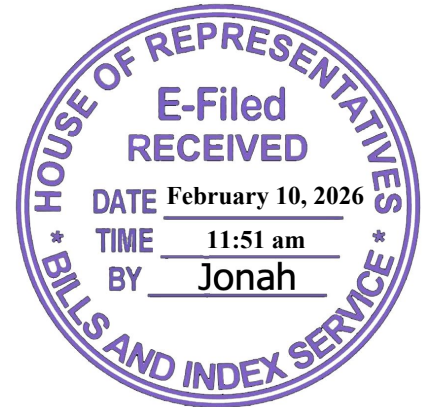


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7702



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to strengthen the Department of Education (DepEd) by refining and clarifying the governance structure established under Republic Act (RA) No. 9155, otherwise known as the *“Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001”*. This ensures more coherent policy implementation, stronger accountability, and more responsive delivery of basic education services nationwide, including the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Since the enactment of RA No. 9155, the DepEd has pursued decentralization to bring decision-making closer to schools and learners. However, evolving educational demands, demographic shifts, and geographic realities have underscored the need to further define the roles, authority, and support mechanisms at the regional, division, and district levels. This proposed measure reinforces the authority of regional directors to contextualize central office policies, provide strategic direction, and extend technical assistance to schools division. This allows the Department to address unique regional demographic challenges that a centralized approach might overlook.

Furthermore, this measure formalizes the inclusion of legal and ancillary support services as integral components of effective administration. This aligns with the national efforts to offload non-teaching tasks from educators, thereby ensuring that teachers can focus exclusively on classroom instruction while specialized administrative offices handle the complexities of school management¹.

This vital piece of legislation also provides much needed harmonization within the BARMM. It vests appropriate authority in the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education while allowing the DepEd to provide technical assistance and training when necessary. It ensures that the BARMM can still exercise its autonomy while remaining supported by national quality standards and technical expertise.

¹ Department of Education (6 March 2025). *DepEd sustain hiring of over 7,000 Administrative Support Staff to ease teacher workload*. <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2025/03/06/pbbm-deped-sustain-hiring-of-over-7000-administrative-support-staff-to-ease-teacher-workload/>

Finally, this measure aims to enhance institutional coherence, improve service delivery, and support the overall implementation of basic education policies across all regions.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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

House Bill No. **7702**

Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

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”, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Section 7 of Republic Act (RA) No. 9155, otherwise known as the “*Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001*”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 7. *Powers, Duties, and Functions.* — x x x

“B. Regional Level

“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, [and] 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) [Monitoring, evaluating] **CONTEXTUALIZE POLICIES OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE, PROVIDE DIRECTION SETTING FOR THE REGION, and [assessing regional learning outcomes] EXTEND SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE AND COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND STANDARDS;**

“x x x

“C. Division Level

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

“x x x

“D. School District Level

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

“x x x”

SEC. 2. Section 13 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 13. *Governance in the BARMM.* — The [Regional Education Secretary] MINISTER of [the] BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF THE BANGSAMORO Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) shall exercise similar governance authority over the divisions, districts, schools and learning centers in the region as may be provided in [the Organic Act without prejudice to the provisions of Republic Act. 9054, entitled “An Act to Strengthen and Expand the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 6734, entitled ‘An Act Providing for the Autonomous Region in Mindanao, as amended’”] REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.”

“THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SECRETARY, MAY PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS TO THE DIVISIONS, DISTRICTS, SCHOOLS, AND LEARNING CENTERS WITHIN BARMM.”

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days from the implementation of this Act, the Department of Education shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* — RA No. 9155 is hereby amended. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

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

Approved,