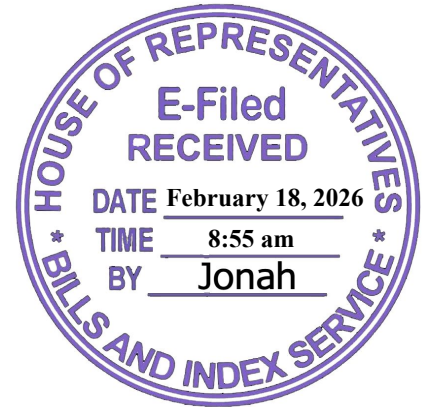




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7839

Introduced by **REP. PATRICIA C. CALDERON**, 7th District of Cebu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

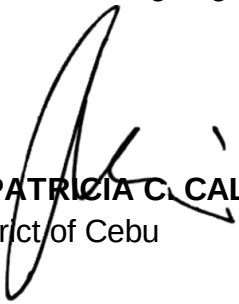
1 The 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates “The State to protect and promote the right
2 of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to make such education accessible
3 to all.” Central to fulfilling this mandate is ensuring that the governance structure of
4 basic education is efficient, responsive, and adequately aligned with the needs of
5 schools and students.

6 The Province of Cebu is one of the largest provinces in the country in terms of land
7 area, population, and number of public elementary and secondary schools. The
8 existing Schools Division Office (SDO) currently supervises a vast number of schools
9 and personnel across geographically dispersed municipalities. This setup poses
10 significant administrative and operational challenges that affect supervision,
11 monitoring, technical assistance, and overall service delivery to students and schools.

12 The creation of three (3) separate Schools Division Offices—namely the Schools
13 Division Office – North Cebu, Schools Division Office – Central Cebu, and Schools
14 Division Office – South Cebu—will promote more efficient governance and closer
15 supervision of schools. By rationalizing the distribution of schools and personnel, the
16 proposed measure will enable more focused policy implementation, improved
17 monitoring of learning outcomes, strengthened support to teachers and school heads,
18 and faster response to the specific needs of local communities.

19 A dedicated SDO all across the long island of Cebu will bring educational leadership
20 and decision-making closer to schools and communities, resulting in faster response
21 times, improved accountability, and more tailored interventions to address local
22 educational challenges.

- 1 Hence, this measure aims to strengthen the governance framework of basic education
- 2 in the area and ensure that students receive the focused support they deserve.
- 3 In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. PATRICIA C. CALDERON
7th District of Cebu

Republic of the Philippines
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7839**

Introduced by
Rep. Patricia C. Calderon, 7th District of Cebu

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

3 **AN ACT DIVIDING THE SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE FOR THE PROVINCE OF**
4 **CEBU INTO THREE (3) SCHOOL DIVISION OFFICES NAMELY THE SCHOOLS**
5 **DIVISION OFFICE – CENTRAL CEBU, SCHOOL DIVISION OFFICE – NORTH**
6 **CEBU, AND SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE – SOUTH CEBU, APPROPRIATING**
7 **FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

8 **SECTION 1. Short Title.**

9 This Act shall be known as the “**Cebu Schools Division Reorganization Act.**”

10 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.**

11 It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the efficient delivery of basic
12 education services and strengthen governance mechanisms in the administration of
13 public elementary and secondary schools. Toward this end, the State shall promote
14 responsive, accessible, and effective education management structures consistent
15 with the objectives of the Department of Education (DepEd).

16 **SEC. 3. Division of the Schools Division Office of Cebu Province.**

17 The existing Schools Division Office (SDO) for the Province of Cebu is hereby divided
18 into three (3) separate and distinct Schools Division Offices to be known as:

- 19 a) **Schools Division Office – North Cebu;**
20 b) **Schools Division Office – Central Cebu;** and
21 c) **Schools Division Office – South Cebu.**

22 Each Schools Division Office shall exercise administrative supervision and control
23 over all public elementary and secondary schools, including alternative learning

systems, within their respective territorial jurisdictions as determined by the Department of Education.

SEC. 4. Territorial Jurisdiction.

For purposes of this Act, the territorial jurisdiction of the Schools Division Offices created herein shall cover the following municipalities in the Province of Cebu:

(a) Schools Division Office – North Cebu:

Liloan, Compostela, Carmen, Catmon, Sogod, Borbon, San Francisco, Poro, Tudela, Pilar, Tabogon, Medellin, Daanbantayan, Tabuelan, Bantayan, Santa Fe, and Madridejos.

(b) Schools Division Office – Central Cebu:

Consolacion, Cordova, Minglanilla, San Fernando, Sibonga, Barili, Aloguinsan, Pinamungahan, Balamban, Asturias, and Tuburan.

(c) Schools Division Office – South Cebu:

Dumanjug, Ronda, Alcantara, Moalboal, Badian, Alegria, Malabuyoc, Ginatilan, Samboan, Santander, Oslob, Boljoon, Alcoy, Dalaguete, and Argao.

The Department of Education may, when necessary and in the interest of effective and efficient administration, adjust the clustering of municipalities through appropriate issuance, provided that such adjustments shall not diminish the intent of this Act to equitably distribute schools and resources among the three (3) Schools Division Offices.

SEC. 5. Powers and Functions.

The Schools Division Offices created under this Act shall perform the powers and functions prescribed under Republic Act No. 9155, otherwise known as the “Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001,” and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 6. Organizational Structure, Personnel, and Transition.

Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall issue the necessary orders for the operationalization of the Schools Division Offices – North Cebu, Central Cebu, and South Cebu.

The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service Commission, shall determine and approve the organizational structures and staffing patterns necessary for the effective operation of the newly created Schools Division Offices.

For this purpose, DepEd shall constitute an interim transition team to oversee the orderly implementation of this Act, including personnel reassignment or redistribution, hiring of additional personnel as may be necessary, establishment of offices, transfer of records and assets, and the finalization of school mapping and jurisdictional delineation.

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SEC. 7. Funding and Appropriations.

The initial funding necessary for the operation of the new divisions shall be charged against the current budget of the Department of Education. Thereafter, the operational requirements shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause.

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

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.

All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity.

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

Approved,