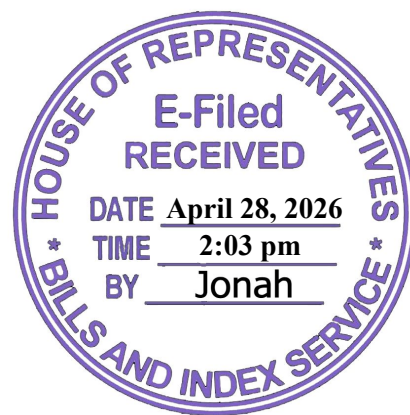


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8977



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide data and communication allowances to all basic education teachers in both public and private schools during public health emergencies and other analogous cases. It also ensures the continuous and effective delivery of education through blended and distance learning modalities.

Despite their critical role in sustaining the education system and honing the minds of the future of the nation, teachers continue to bear out-of-pocket expenses for internet connectivity and communication services to perform their duties. These additional costs are not commensurate with existing compensation schemes and place undue financial burden on them, especially during emergencies when alternative modes of instruction become indispensable. Especially that the use of online tools, virtual classrooms, and digital learning materials have since been integrated into the basic education curriculum¹.

This proposed measure recognizes that effective teaching in a modern education system requires more than professional competence, but also adequate digital support. The provision of a communication and data allowance ensures that teachers are equipped with the minimum resources necessary to deliver instruction, maintain learner engagement, and access platforms without interruption.

Moreover, the provision of such allowances complements ongoing efforts to improve the country's digital infrastructure and expand internet

¹ The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) (2025). *Fixing the Foundations: A matter of national survival, EDCOM II year two report*. <https://edcom2.gov.ph/media/2025/01/EDCOM-2-Year-2-Report-Fixing-the-Foundations-2025.pdf>

accessibility nationwide. It affirms the State's commitment to prioritize the welfare of teachers as frontliners in education and to strengthen the overall capacity of the education sector to withstand future crises.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **8977**

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
PROVIDING COMMUNICATION AND DATA ACCESSIBILITY,
HARDWARE SUPPORT, AND ALLOWANCES TO ALL PRIVATE AND
PUBLIC BASIC EDUCATION TEACHERS DURING PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCIES AND OTHER ANALOGOUS CASES

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 “*Digital Resiliency for Teachers during Health Emergencies Act*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared as policy of the State, consistent with the constitutional provisions on education and national development, to support the unique needs of the education sector in times of public health emergencies and similar crises. The State recognizes that school teachers are essential pillars of national development whose duties must remain uninterrupted despite external disruptions.

Towards this end, the State shall ensure that all educators are equipped with the appropriate tools, digital infrastructure, and support systems necessary for the efficient and effective performance of their duties in any learning environment.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- a. Public health emergency refers to an imminent threat of an illness or health condition, caused by bio terrorism, epidemics, pandemics, or fatal biological agents, that poses substantial risk of mass casualties or long-term disability, necessitating the prolonged closure of schools and learning institutions;

b. Other analogous cases means any occurrence or imminent threat of any calamity or disaster, natural or man-made, having the same effect of prolonged closure of schools and other learning institutions.

c. Blended learning designates the range of learning possibilities in an education program in which content and instruction are presented by combining internet, digital media, television or radio broadcast with established classroom forms that require the physical co-presence of teacher and students.

SEC. 4. *Provision of Digital Devices.* – To effectively execute the blended learning implemented during a declared public health emergency and other analogous cases, the national government through the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall provide the technologically appropriate, affordable, and functional computers or similar digital devices to all basic education teachers, both in public and private schools.

SEC. 5. *Mitigation of Technological Obsolescence.* – The DICT shall establish the minimum technical specifications for the devices mentioned in Section 4 of this Act. These specifications shall undergo periodic review every three (3) years to mitigate the impact of obsolescence and ensure that the hardware remains efficient, effective, and compatible with current educational software and platforms.

SEC. 6. *Provision of Data and Communication Allowance.* – During a declared public health emergency or other analogous case, the DepEd, in coordination with the DICT, shall provide a monthly data and communication allowance to all basic education teachers, both in public and in private. The DepEd and DICT shall determine the appropriate amount based on prevailing market rates and the volume of data required for full-time online instructional delivery.

SEC. 7. *Subsidized Data Rates and Fiscal Incentives.* – During a declared public health emergency or other analogous case, access to websites where the blended learning materials are published or posted shall be subsidized by the government and may be accessed free of charge. Moreover, the Department of Finance (DOF) through the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) shall be allowed to grant fiscal incentives to concerned suppliers or service providers to lessen cost: *Provided, That*, such incentives shall not significantly prejudice revenues for the government.

SEC. 8. *Applicability.* – The provisions of this Act shall apply to all existing and future public health emergencies and analogous cases declared by the national or local government.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd, the DICT and the DOF shall promulgate the corresponding implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from the date of its effectivity.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DepEd and DICT. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,