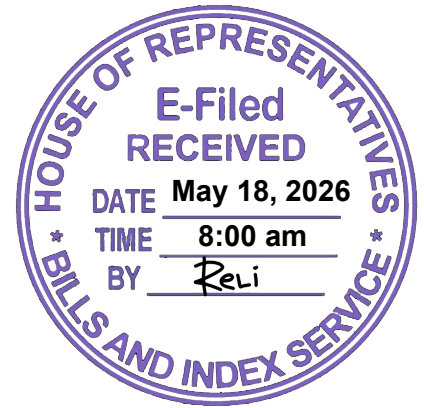


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9267**



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Education remains a vital pillar of national development, human capital formation, economic competitiveness, and social equity.

Despite significant reforms and investments in the education sector, the Philippines continues to face persistent and interconnected challenges, including learning poverty, high dropout and attrition rates, inadequate school infrastructure, shortage of qualified teachers, digital inequality, skills mismatch, and the evolving demands of emerging industries and technologies. Recent global assessments and national studies likewise underscore the urgent need for a more cohesive, future-oriented, and evidence-based education reform agenda.

The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) has played a crucial role in assessing the state of Philippine education and recommending reforms across the basic, higher, and technical-vocational education sectors. However, the rapidly evolving educational landscape, driven by digital transformation, artificial intelligence, labor market shifts, and increasing global competitiveness, necessitates the institutionalization of a stronger and continuing mechanism for policy coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and long-term strategic planning.

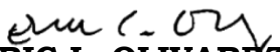
This measure seeks to create the Third Commission on Education (EDCOM III) as a congressional-executive consultative and advisory commission tasked to review, assess, monitor, and recommend policies, programs, and institutional reforms necessary to improve the quality, accessibility, relevance, and responsiveness of the Philippine education system. It likewise seeks to strengthen coordination among the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and other key government agencies involved in

innovation, labor development, budgeting, statistics, and national development planning.

The proposed measure further recognizes the importance of multi-sectoral participation by engaging experts from the academe, business sector, civil society organizations, parents' associations, local government units, and development partners in shaping a comprehensive, inclusive, and future-responsive national education agenda.

Through EDCOM III, Congress seeks to ensure sustained policy continuity, stronger inter-agency collaboration, data driven and evidence-based education governance, and a responsive education framework capable of preparing Filipino learners for the demands of the future while addressing longstanding structural gaps in the education system.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **9267**

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

AN ACT

**CREATING THE THIRD COMMISSION ON EDUCATION (EDCOM III)
AS AN INTER-AGENCY AND LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION POLICY
ADVISORY COMMISSION, PROVIDING ITS POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Third
Commission on Education (EDCOM III) Act.*"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - Pursuant to Article XIV, Section 1
of the 1987 Constitution, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to make
education a critical component of human capital development, socio- economic
equality, inclusive growth, and sustainable development. It shall formulate
national education policies and plans in accordance with its constitutional
mandate to establish a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education
relevant to the needs of the people and society.

Towards this end, the State shall take appropriate steps to protect and
promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, recognize the
complementary roles of public and private education, and take appropriate steps
to make such education accessible to all.

SECTION 3. Creation of EDCOM III. - EDCOM III is hereby created as a
continuing congressional-executive consultative and advisory commission on
education reforms.

EDCOM III shall serve as a congressional-executive consultative and
advisory commission tasked to review, assess, monitor, and recommend policies,

programs, and institutional reforms necessary to address systemic issues and improve the quality, accessibility, relevance, and responsiveness of the Philippine education system.

EDCOM III shall ensure the active and direct participation of the three education agencies, namely, the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), with the relevant Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives.

SECTION 4. Objectives of EDCOM III. - EDCOM III shall have the following objectives:

- 1) Ensure that the quality of Philippine education, both public and private, is at par with international standards, by aligning its curricula, teaching methodologies, and assessment systems with global best practices;
- 2) Determine and address challenges and gaps in school infrastructure, learning resources, and availability of well-trained teachers and educators to achieve the best learning environment for learners and students at all levels; and
- 3) Update the national education agenda and roadmap, as may be necessary to integrate the recent educational developments on artificial intelligence, digital technologies, and other emerging global advancements to future-proof the education system and the country's workforce.

SECTION 5. Composition of EDCOM III. - Guided by the national strategic vision on education, EDCOM III shall work collectively towards its common goals and priorities and shall be composed of the following:

a) As Co-Chairpersons:

- i. Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education;
- ii. Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education;
- iii. Chairperson of the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture; and
- iv. Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education.

b) As Commissioners:

- i. Chairperson of the CHED;
- ii. Secretary of the DepEd;
- iii. Director-General of the TESDA;

- iv. Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- v. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- vi. Secretary of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev);
- vii. Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking; and
- viii. Chairperson of the House Committee on Sustainable Development Goals.

The members of the Commission shall receive no compensation, but travelling, communications, and other necessary expenses shall be allowed, subject to existing laws, and rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. Powers and Functions of EDCOM III. - EDCOM III shall have the following powers and functions:

- A. Continue to review, monitor, and formulate action agendas, policies, programs, and recommended measures to address education challenges, with primary focus on the following: stunting, learning poverty, high attrition rates, availability of well-trained teachers, digital infrastructure, emerging global industries and technologies, and skills mismatch in the country;
- B. Coordinate with government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and other relevant sectors to promote policy and program coherence;
- C. Serve as a regular forum for inter-sub-sectoral consultations and proposals for intervention to address cross-cutting policies and programs of the three sub- sectors of education, with a focus on proposing reforms in the basic education curriculum, scholarship grants, and voucher systems;
- D. Submit annual reports to Congress on the progress of implementation of this Act; and
- E. Perform other functions as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 7. Standing Committees. - The members of EDCOM III shall establish from among themselves standing committees and may engage experts, advisers, and resource persons from multi-sectoral groups, as may be necessary. The standing committees shall include the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Philippine Sports Commission in their respective consultations to ensure that arts and sports education are integrated into the education system.

SECTION 8. *Advisory Support Council of EDCOM III.* - The Advisory Support Council (ASC) of EDCOM III is hereby created to provide the Commission with expert assistance and advice.

Members of EDCOM III shall endeavor to regularly attend meetings of the Commission. The Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall choose recognized experts from the following sectors to form part of the ASC: two (2) members from the academe, two (2) members from the business sector, two (2) members from parents' associations duly recognized by EDCOM III, two (2) members who are heads of LGUs, and two (2) members from civil society organizations and development partners engaged in education.

EDCOM III shall undertake the necessary measures to ensure the broadest possible, most inclusive and diversified composition of the ASC.

The members of the ASC who are government officials shall serve in the Council without any additional emoluments, allowances, or pay, by virtue of and in connection with the positions they have been elected to or appointed to, as the case may be.

SECTION 9. *Technical Secretariat and Executive Director.* - A Technical Secretariat, to be headed by an Executive Director (ED), shall be organized to provide technical and administrative support to the EDCOM III in the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions under Section 6 of this Act. The Technical Secretariat shall coexist with the Commission.

The ED to be appointed by the Commission must be a recognized expert with experience both in the fields of education and management. The ED shall work full-time with compensation equivalent to Salary Grade 29, subject to existing compensation and position classification laws and DBM rules.

Subject to the review and approval of the DBM, and in accordance with existing civil service laws, rules, and regulations, the members of EDCOM III shall determine the necessary human resource requirements in order to fulfill its mandate under this Act.

SECTION 10. *Meetings of EDCOM III.* - The EDCOM III shall meet at least once every quarter, but may be convened by its Chairpersons to such special meetings as may be necessary. The members of the EDCOM III shall be duly notified of any meeting in advance. The first meeting of the Commission shall take place within one (1) month from the effectivity of this Act, at a time and place to be designated by the Chairpersons.

SECTION 11. *The National Education Agenda.* - The national education agenda formulated by EDCOM II shall be monitored, reviewed, updated, and recommended for implementation by EDCOM III, as may be necessary. An

annual report on its implementation shall be submitted to the Philippine Congress.

The national education agenda developed by EDCOM II, shall be subject to further evaluation by the other important stakeholders in education, such as the parents' associations and school communities.

SECTION 12. *Data Sharing and Access to Information.* - All government agencies, offices, instrumentalities, state universities and colleges (SUCs), local government units (LGUs), and government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs), particularly those involved in education, labor, planning, budgeting, statistics, and public finance, shall provide EDCOM III with access to relevant data, statistics, reports, and information necessary for the performance of its mandate, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations on data privacy, confidentiality, and national security.

EDCOM III may establish data-sharing agreements and interoperable information systems with concerned agencies to facilitate evidence-based policy formulation, monitoring, and evaluation.

SECTION 13. *Inter-Agency Coordination.* - To ensure policy coherence and alignment between education, labor market development, public expenditure, and national development planning, EDCOM III shall closely coordinate with the following agencies:

- a) The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) for education, labor force, demographic, and statistical data;
- b) The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for budgetary planning, fiscal analysis, and education expenditure monitoring;
- c) The DepDev for long-term national development planning, workforce projections, and policy integration; and
- d) The Commission on Audit (COA) for audit guidance, accountability mechanisms, and assessment of education-related public expenditures.

The concerned agencies shall designate focal persons or liaison officers to facilitate coordination with EDCOM III.

SECTION 14. *Sunset Review and Term of EDCOM III.* - EDCOM III shall continue to operate for a period of ten (10) years from the effectivity of this Act unless sooner extended by Congress through subsequent legislation.

Within one (1) year prior to the expiration of its term, EDCOM III shall submit to Congress a comprehensive terminal report containing its accomplishments, policy recommendations, evaluation of education reforms undertaken, and recommendations on whether its mandate should be extended, institutionalized, or restructured.

SECTION 15. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continuous implementation, including any deficiency in the current year, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 16. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 17. *Repealing Clause.* - All law executive orders, presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 18. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.