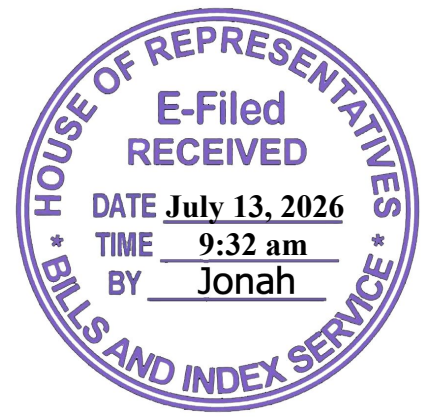


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10046



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Crucial to this mandate is ensuring that our learning institutions remain safe spaces where students, teachers, and school personnel can thrive without fear of violence, environmental hazards, or emotional trauma.

Recent tragedies in public school vicinities highlight critical gaps in our current school safety infrastructure and response frameworks. The increasing complexity of both man-made security threats and climate-driven natural disasters demands a comprehensive, modern approach to campus safety.

This bill seeks to institutionalize standard safety protocols across all public basic education institutions by establishing three core pillars:

1. **Physical and Infrastructure Security:** Mandating secured perimeters, controlled access points, and routine safety audits.
2. **Crisis and Emergency Response:** Implementing uniform emergency response protocols and mandatory training for natural disasters, fires, and active-threat situations.
3. **Mental Health and Psycho-social Support:** Allocating dedicated personnel to early intervention, peer-mediation, and counseling to address the root causes of behavioral crises before they escalate.

By integrating physical infrastructure upgrades with proactive mental health care and rigorous training, this legislative measure shifts our public school systems from a reactive stance to a culture of constant readiness and prevention.

In view of the urgent need to protect our nation's most valuable resource—our children—the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10046

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY PROTOCOLS,
SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CRISIS INTERVENTION MECHANISMS
IN ALL PUBLIC BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

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 "Safe Schools and Learning Environments Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the life, liberty, and property of its citizens, particularly the youth. The State recognizes that an environment free from violence, hazards, and psychological distress is indispensable to effective learning. To this end, the State shall implement systemic safety protocols, robust physical defenses, and proactive psycho-social intervention strategies in all public elementary and secondary schools.

Sec. 3. Scope and Coverage – This Act shall apply to all public basic education institutions, including elementary, junior high, and senior high schools under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education (DepEd).

Sec. 4. The School Safety and Security Framework - The DepEd, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), shall formulate a Comprehensive School Safety Framework divided into three core components:

- (a) **Physical Infrastructure and Perimeter Defense:** All public schools shall be mandated to maintain secured boundaries. This includes perimeter fencing, functional main gates with strictly controlled access logs, high-definition closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras at entry points, and well-lit walkways.

- (b) Standardized Emergency Response Protocols (SERP): Every school must adopt a uniform protocol for specific threat levels, including, but not limited to, active shooter scenarios, localized civil unrest, fires, earthquakes, and severe weather events.
- (c) Early Warning and Communication Systems: Schools shall implement dedicated public address systems and a localized, secure messaging network to communicate rapidly with parents, guardians, and local authorities during emergencies.

Sec. 5. *Mandatory School Safety Audits.* – Within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act, and every two years thereafter, all public schools shall undergo a mandatory safety and structural integrity audit. These audits will be spearheaded by the DepEd's Engineering Division in collaboration with local government unit (LGU) engineers and disaster risk reduction officers to identify and retroactively fix physical vulnerabilities.

Sec. 6. *Integration of School-Based Mental Health Services.* – To prevent internal behavioral crises and violence, DepEd shall accelerate the hiring and strategic placement of Registered Guidance Counselors and Mental Health Associates in all public school districts. Schools shall establish localized "Safe Space Offices" offering confidential counseling, peer-mediation groups, and mental health first aid.

Sec. 7. *School Safety and Crisis Management Committees.* — Every public school shall establish a School Safety and Crisis Management Committee chaired by the School Principal and composed of faculty representatives, parent-teacher association officers, local barangay health/security personnel, and a designated school safety officer. The committee shall oversee quarterly drills and enforce strict visitor screening protocols.

Sec. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to initially implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation and structural enhancements shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Education, in consultation with the DILG, DOH, PNP, and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances, and other administrative rules and regulations or parts

thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,