



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

20th CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10395



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

AN ACT
PROVIDING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE MADRASAH EDUCATION SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 2, paragraph 2 of Article XIV of the 1997 Philippine Constitution states that "the State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.

Accordingly, the State has a responsibility to strengthen and develop the Philippine Madrasah system, which today has evolved into three (3) types, namely:

1. Traditional Madrasah – focuses on religious instruction and is basically considered as a non-formal education. It is non-graded and may have multi-age groupings.
2. Developmental Madrasah – offers hierarchical and structured education and sequential learning generally attuned with the formal education system. Kindergarten, primary, and secondary education are offered in this type of Madrasah, and accordingly recognized by the Department of Education (DepEd).
3. Integrated Madrasah – teaches both secular and Islamic subjects, and Arabic literacy, for a more comprehensive educational experience.

This bill seeks to provide mechanisms to improve the quality of Madrasah education and open more opportunities for Madrasah students and teachers, under a closer collaboration mandated in this proposed measure by the DepEd, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government.

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


SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA
Representative

Lone District, Maguindanao del Norte with Cotabato City



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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 ***"Fund Assistance to Madrasah Education Act."***

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is a declared policy of the State to promote and make quality education accessible to all Filipinos without exception. The State also recognizes the complementary roles of public and private educational institutions in the country's educational system and the invaluable contributions of the private sector, including support for Madrasah schools.

The State shall also, as a matter of policy, establish a fund for Madrasah infrastructure development apart from maintaining a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, teacher development programs, subsidies and other incentives, which shall be made available to deserving students, especially the underprivileged. Further, the State shall encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems as well as self-learning, particularly those that respond to specific community needs.

For this purpose, the State mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), to provide mechanisms to improve the quality of Madrasah education and open more opportunities for students to benefit from said educational system by maximizing the use of existing resources of public and private education.

SEC. 3. Madrasah Curriculum. – The Madrasah curriculum shall be enriched and harmonized to make it compatible with the curriculum of the country's formal education system. Equivalency, learning accreditation, experience-based learning, and other innovative learning approaches shall be utilized to enable the smooth transition of students from the Madrasah educational system to the formal educational system and vice versa.

SEC. 4. Criteria for Assistance. – The programs for assistance shall be based on a set of criteria which includes, among others, tuition fees charged by the schools, the socio-economic needs of the students, giving priority to those who come from the marginalized sector of society, overall performance of the schools, the academic qualifications and the financial needs of both students and teachers.

In addition to the abovementioned criteria, students who may qualify for scholarship assistance in Madrasah schools can continue to study in higher education institutions, *Provided*, That they pass the minimum requirements of the program.

SEC. 5. *Forms of Assistance.* – For purposes of this Act, apart from an infrastructure development fund and a system of scholarship grants, student loan programs, teacher development programs, subsidies and other incentives, programs and assistance to students and teachers in Madrasah schools shall include the following:

- a) Nutrition and feeding program for young children;
- b) Classroom facilities such as desks, tables, chalkboards, and other basic classroom needs;
- c) Textbook assistance fund;
- d) Education loan fund; and
- e) In-service training fund for teachers;

SEC. 6. *Funding.* – The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be provided in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED MILLION (P500,000,000.00) PESOS, and shall be initially charged to the current appropriations of DepEd.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Education, in coordination with the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, the Secretary of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos and the Minister of the Ministry of the Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.