

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10524



Introduced by Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi

EXPLANATORY NOTE

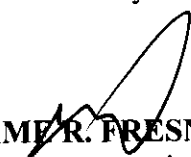
This bill seeks to expand the coverage of the Anti-Bullying Act to include higher education institutions and technical-vocational schools under the supervision of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It likewise strengthens reporting, monitoring, and training requirements to ensure a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to preventing and addressing bullying in all educational settings.

Republic Act No. 10627, otherwise known as the "Anti-Bullying Act of 2013", was enacted to protect learners in elementary and secondary schools from bullying and related forms of harassment. While the law has provided an important framework for promoting safe learning environments, its coverage remains limited to basic education institutions.

Undeniably, incidents of bullying, intimidation, harassment, cyberbullying, and other abusive conduct likewise occur in colleges, universities, graduate schools, and technical-vocational institutions, often with serious consequences on the mental health, academic performance, and overall well-being of students. These incidents mostly go unreported and often times, downright neglected. The absence of a clear statutory mandate for these institutions has resulted in uneven policies and protection mechanisms across the higher and technical education sectors.

By extending these protections to all learners, regardless of educational level, this bill advances the State's policy of safeguarding the dignity, mental health, safety, and well-being of every student. It also fosters a culture of respect, accountability, and inclusion in all educational institutions.

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


JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10627 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE ANTI-BULLYING ACT OF 2013”, EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE TO ALL LEVELS OF EDUCATION, INCLUDING TERTIARY AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION. 1. *Expansion of Coverage.* – Section 3 of Republic Act No. 10627 otherwise known as the “Anti-Bullying Act of 2013” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. *Adoption of Anti-Bullying Policies.* – All elementary [and], secondary schools, **HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA),** are hereby directed to adopt policies to address the existence of bullying in their respective institutions. Such policies shall be regularly updated and, at a minimum, shall include provisions which:

xxx

All elementary and secondary schools, **HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF TESDA,** shall provide students and their parents or guardians a copy of the anti-bullying policies being adopted by the school. Such policies shall likewise be included in the school’s student and/or employee handbook and shall be conspicuously posted on the school walls and website, if there is any.

The Department of Education (DepED), **COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)** shall include in its training programs, courses or activities which shall provide opportunities for

school administrators, teachers and other employees to develop their knowledge and skills in preventing or responding to any bullying act.”

SEC. 2. *Amendment to Section 4 of RA No. 10627.* – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10627 otherwise known as the “Anti-Bullying Act of 2013” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. *Mechanisms to Address Bullying.* – The school principal, **COLLEGE DEAN, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR** or any person who holds a comparable role shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of policies intended to address bullying.

Any member of the school administration, student, parent or volunteer shall immediately report any instance of bullying or act of retaliation witnessed, or that has come to one’s attention, to the school principal, **COLLEGE DEAN, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR** or school officer or person so designated by the **APPROPRIATE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES** to handle such issues, or both. Upon receipt of such a report, the school principal, **COLLEGE DEAN, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR** or the designated school officer or person shall promptly investigate. If it is determined that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the school principal, **COLLEGE DEAN, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR** or the designated school officer or person shall:

- (a) Xxx
- (b) Xxx
- (c) Xxx
- (d) Xxx

Xxx”

SEC. 3. *Amendment to Section 5 of RA No. 10627.* – Section 5 of Republic Act No. 10627 otherwise known as the “Anti-Bullying Act of 2013” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. *Reporting Requirement.* – All schools shall inform their respective schools division superintendents, **COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS, OR VOCATIONAL CENTER DIRECTORS, AS THE CASE MAY BE**, in writing about the anti-bullying policies formulated within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act. Such notification shall likewise be an administrative requirement prior to the operation of new schools.

Beginning with the school year after the effectivity of this Act, and every first week of the start of the school year thereafter, schools **AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS** shall submit a report to their respective **DEPED** schools’ division superintendents **OR CHED REGIONAL DIRECTORS OR TESDA REGIONAL DIRECTORS, AS THE CASE MAY BE**, all relevant information and statistics on acts of bullying or retaliation. The [schools division superintendents] **AFOREMENTIONED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS** shall compile these data and report the same **RESPECTIVELY** to the Secretary of the DepED, **TO THE CHED CHAIRPERSON OR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TESDA**, who shall

likewise formally transmit a comprehensive report to the Committee on Basic Education **AND TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION** of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.”

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, CHED, TESDA, and the Department of Education shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,