



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10595**



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING SCHOOL SECURITY PERSONNEL IN ALL PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, MANDATING THE CREATION
AND ALLOCATION OF PLANTILLA POSITIONS THEREFOR, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Schools must be places where children are able to learn, grow, and develop without fearing for their safety. The responsibility of the State to provide quality education necessarily carries with it the responsibility to provide an environment in which learners, teachers, and school personnel are adequately protected.

The Department of Education has long recognized the importance of security personnel in schools. Previous DepEd issuances have expressly recognized security guards and watchmen assigned to elementary, secondary, and vocational schools. DepEd has likewise previously directed the establishment of security units in schools using existing personnel and resources.

However, the security requirements of today's schools demand a more institutionalized and sustainable approach.

Public elementary and secondary schools differ considerably in learner population, campus size, number of access points, operating schedules, location, and exposure to security risks. A large public high school with thousands of learners, several buildings, and multiple entrances necessarily presents different security requirements from those of a small elementary school. For this reason, a uniform requirement of merely one security guard for every school may neither be adequate nor an efficient use of government resources.

School security should not depend solely on temporary arrangements, existing personnel being asked to assume additional functions, or security measures adopted only after a serious incident occurs.

Security is not ancillary to education. A child cannot meaningfully exercise the right to education if the environment in which that education is delivered is not safe.

This measure therefore seeks to institutionalize dedicated security personnel in all public elementary and secondary schools by mandating DepEd, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, to create and allocate permanent plantilla positions for qualified school security personnel.

Rather than imposing an inflexible one-size-fits-all staffing ratio, the bill requires the establishment of staffing standards based on learner population, campus size and configuration, entrances and exits, operating shifts, location, documented incidents, and assessed security risks. Schools facing greater security requirements shall be prioritized during the initial implementation of the program.

The measure likewise recognizes that protecting children requires more than guarding a gate. School security personnel must understand the environment in which they serve. Accordingly, the bill requires appropriate training in child protection, emergency and crisis response, threat identification, first aid, disaster preparedness, de-escalation, and coordination with law enforcement and emergency authorities.

The objective is not to turn our schools into fortresses. It is to ensure that when parents entrust their children to our public schools each morning, the State has taken reasonable and institutional measures to keep them safe until they return home.

A secure school is fundamental to a functioning education system. The presence of trained, accountable, and adequately deployed security personnel must therefore be treated not merely as an administrative option, but as an integral component of providing safe and accessible public education.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte



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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 "Public School Security Act."

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the right of every learner to receive education in a safe, secure, and conducive learning environment.

Toward this end, the State shall strengthen security in all public elementary and secondary schools through the institutionalization of dedicated school security personnel and the establishment of appropriate staffing standards responsive to the size, population, location, and security requirements of each school.

Section 3. *Creation and Allocation of School Security Personnel Plantilla Positions.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall create, allocate, and deploy permanent plantilla positions for qualified security personnel in all public elementary and secondary schools throughout the country.

Such positions shall form part of the authorized staffing complement of DepEd and shall be allocated directly to schools or through such appropriate organizational arrangement as may be determined by DepEd and DBM in accordance with the staffing standards established under this Act.

The creation and filling of plantilla positions under this Act shall be implemented progressively, giving priority to schools determined to have greater security requirements.

Section 4. *School Security Personnel Staffing Standards.* – Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, DepEd and DBM shall jointly establish uniform staffing standards for determining the appropriate number of school security personnel to be assigned to each public elementary and secondary school.

The staffing standards shall take into consideration, among others:

- (a) learner population;
- (b) number of teaching and non-teaching personnel;
- (c) total land area and physical configuration of the school campus;
- (d) number of buildings, gates, entrances, and exits;
- (e) number of school shifts and hours of operation;
- (f) location and accessibility of the school;
- (g) documented security incidents and assessed security risks;
- (h) proximity to areas presenting heightened safety or security concerns; and
- (i) such other circumstances that may materially affect the safety and security requirements of the school.

The standards shall be periodically reviewed and adjusted to respond to changes in enrollment, school facilities, security conditions, and other relevant circumstances.

Section 5. *Priority in Allocation.* –In the initial implementation of this Act, priority shall be given to:

- (a) schools with large learner populations;
- (b) integrated schools, secondary schools with large student populations, and schools operating multiple shifts;
- (c) schools with multiple access points or extensive campuses;
- (d) schools with documented incidents involving violence, threats, unauthorized entry, or other serious security concerns; and
- (e) schools identified by DepEd, in coordination with appropriate law enforcement and local government authorities, as having heightened security risks.

Nothing in this Section shall be construed to permanently exclude smaller or lower-risk schools from the allocation of security personnel.

Section 6. *Duties and Responsibilities.* – School security personnel appointed pursuant to this Act shall be responsible for maintaining the safety and security of learners, teachers, school personnel, visitors, facilities, and property within school premises.

Their duties shall include:

- (a) monitoring and controlling access to school premises;
- (b) verifying and appropriately recording visitors in accordance with DepEd policies;
- (c) monitoring school gates, entrances, exits, and other vulnerable areas;
- (d) conducting regular security patrols within school premises;
- (e) assisting in the implementation of school emergency, evacuation, lockdown, and crisis-response protocols;

(f) immediately reporting suspicious activities, threats, prohibited items, violence, and other security incidents to the school head and appropriate authorities;

(g) assisting in maintaining order during school activities and emergencies; and

(h) performing such other security-related functions as may be prescribed by DepEd.

School security personnel shall perform their functions in a manner consistent with the rights, dignity, and best interests of children.

Section 7. *Qualifications and Training.* – Persons appointed to positions created under this Act shall satisfy the qualification standards prescribed by the Civil Service Commission, DepEd, DBM, and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

In addition to the required security qualifications, DepEd shall ensure that school security personnel receive appropriate training in:

- (a) child protection and child-sensitive procedures;
- (b) school emergency and crisis response;
- (c) threat identification and reporting;
- (d) basic first aid and emergency assistance;
- (e) disaster preparedness and evacuation;
- (f) de-escalation and conflict management; and
- (g) coordination with law enforcement, emergency responders, and school authorities.

Section 8. *School Security Assessment.* – Every public elementary and secondary school shall periodically conduct a security assessment in accordance with standards prescribed by DepEd.

The assessment shall identify security risks and vulnerabilities relating to access control, school boundaries, entrances and exits, emergency procedures, visitor management, and other matters affecting the protection of learners and school personnel.

Results of such assessments shall be considered in determining the allocation and deployment of security personnel under this Act.

Section 9. *Inter-Agency Coordination.* – School heads and designated security personnel shall establish appropriate coordination mechanisms with the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), local government units, barangay authorities, emergency responders, and other concerned agencies for the prevention of and response to security incidents and emergencies affecting schools.

SEC. 10. *Non-Displacement and Transition.* – The implementation of this Act shall not result in the arbitrary displacement of existing qualified security personnel presently serving public elementary and secondary schools.

DepEd and DBM shall formulate appropriate transition mechanisms for existing security arrangements, taking into consideration existing contracts, applicable procurement and labor laws, available plantilla positions, qualification requirements, and the security needs of schools.

Qualified individuals currently performing security functions in public schools may be considered for appointment to positions created pursuant to this Act, subject to Civil Service laws, rules, qualification standards, and merit-based selection procedures.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, DepEd, in coordination with DBM, the Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* –The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of DepEd and such other funds as may be authorized by law. Thereafter, the amounts necessary for the creation, filling, deployment, training, compensation, and continued maintenance of the plantilla positions established pursuant to this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DICT, in consultation with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

Section 12. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,