

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10670

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
ENHANCING DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN
BASIC EDUCATION, AUTHORIZING THE CREATION AND
RATIONALIZATION OF SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICES, AND AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9155, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNANCE OF
BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2001

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Effective education delivery is crucial across all schools in the Philippines, as it equips students who will contribute to the country's growth and development. Since the enactment of Republic Act No. 9155, or the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001, the realities faced by the Department of Education (DepEd) in decentralizing the administration of the country's basic education system have significantly changed. Learner populations have grown, the number of schools has expanded, and the complexity of delivering quality education across diverse geographic contexts has increased and there is a need for innovative reforms and adaptive strategies to keep up with the evolving needs of schools and students across the country.

According to the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), several Schools Division Offices (SDOs) now manage more than 1,300 schools, making it increasingly difficult for division offices to effectively oversee schools, support educators, and implement initiatives at the local level. Moreover, the disparity in workload among SDOs remains one of the most pressing concerns. Under these conditions, the management of divisions face increasing administrative burdens, which may undermine DepEd's capacity to provide timely and effective support to schools.

This bill seeks to address these gaps by authorizing the rationalization and creation of Schools Division Offices to ensure that the delivery of basic education services remains responsive and equitable, as strengthening these Schools Division Offices is important to ensure that national policies provide meaningful support to schools and educators.

By allowing school divisions to have a more organized and flexible structure, this measure aims to provide administrative, technical, and management support closer to our educational institutions. Moreover, the bill authorizes the Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), to create additional school divisions and reorganize, combine, adjust, or divide existing divisions and districts, when necessary, based on the number of learners, schools served, geographic conditions, workload requirements, or other factors affecting the delivery of education. This new system and scheme also ensure that every province and city will have a minimum of one school division, giving DepEd the freedom to modify organizational structures in accordance with objective standards and changes in needs.

Improving learning outcomes for Filipino students is ultimately the goal of better division-level governance. Students gain the most when teachers are better prepared, school administrators receive more support, and educational services are provided more effectively. Most importantly, these improvements can lead to better learning outcomes, ensuring that every Filipino student receives quality education through a more responsive educational structure.

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



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO
Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2001"

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 7(B) of Republic Act No. 9155, or the "Governance of
2 Basic Education Act of 2001," is hereby amended as follows:

3
4 "Section 7. Powers, Duties and Functions. –

5
6 XXX

7
8 B. Regional Level

9
10 There shall be as many regional offices as may be provided by law.
11 Each regional office shall have a director, an assistant director and
12 an office staff for program promotion and support, planning,
13 administrative, **LEGAL, ANCILLARY**, and fiscal services.

14
15 Consistent with the national educational policies, plans and
16 standards, the regional director shall have authority, accountability
17 and responsibility for the following:

18
19 (1) Defining a regional educational policy framework which reflects
20 the values, needs and expectations of the communities they serve;

21
22 XXX

(4) CONTEXTUALIZING POLICIES OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE, PROVIDING DIRECTION SETTING FOR THE REGION, AND EXTENDING SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE AND COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND STANDARDS;

(5) Monitoring, evaluating and assessing regional learning outcomes;

[5](6) Undertaking research projects and developing and managing region wide projects which may be funded through official development assistance and/or or other finding agencies;

[6](7) Ensuring strict compliance with prescribed national criteria for the recruitment, selection and training of all staff in the region and divisions.

[7](8) Formulating, in coordination with the regional development council, the budget to support the regional educational plan which shall take into account the educational plans of the divisions and districts;

[8](9) Determining the organization component of the divisions and districts and approving the proposed staffing pattern of all employees in the divisions and districts;

[9](10) Hiring, placing and evaluating all employees in the regional office, except for the position of assistant director;

[10](11) Evaluating all schools division superintendents and assistant division superintendents in the region;

[11](12) Planning and managing the effective and efficient use of all personnel, physical and fiscal resources of the regional office, including professional staff development.;

[12](13) Managing the database and management information system of the region;

[13](14) Approving the establishment of public and private elementary and high schools and learning centers; and

[14](15) Performing such other functions as may be assigned by proper authorities.

1 **C. Division Level**

2
3 [A division shall consist of a province or a city which shall have a
4 schools division superintendent, at least one assistant schools' division
5 superintendent and an office staff for programs promotion, planning,
6 administrative, fiscal, legal, ancillary and other support services.]
7

8 **EACH PROVINCE AND CITY SHALL HAVE AT LEAST ONE**
9 **(1) SCHOOLS DIVISION. WHERE LEARNER POPULATION,**
10 **NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SERVED, GEOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS,**
11 **WORKLOAD DEMANDS, OR OTHER SERVICE DELIVERY**
12 **CONSIDERATIONS SO WARRANT, THE SECRETARY OF**
13 **EDUCATION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**
14 **BUDGET AND OF MANAGEMENT (DBM), IS HEREBY**
15 **AUTHORIZED TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS**
16 **DIVISIONS, AND/OR TO CREATE, REORGANIZE, MERGE,**
17 **REALIGN, OR SUBDIVIDE EXISTING DIVISIONS EQUITABLE,**
18 **AND RESPONSIVE DELIVERY OF BASIC EDUCATION SERVICES.**
19

20 **EACH DIVISION SHALL BE HEADED BY A SCHOOLS**
21 **DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT AND SHALL HAVE AT LEAST ONE**
22 **(1) ASSISTANT SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT.**
23

24 **EACH DIVISION SHALL BE SUPPORTED BY A STAFFING**
25 **PATTERN AND MANPOWER COMPLEMENT COMMENSURATE**
26 **WITH ITS SCOPE JURISDICTION, NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND**
27 **LEARNERS AND DISTRICTS TO ENSURE EFFICIENT, SERVED,**
28 **GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT, AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES.**
29

30 **THE DEPED AND THE DBM SHALL JOINTLY ISSUE AND**
31 **PERIODICALLY UPDATE GUIDELINES PRESCRIBING**
32 **OBJECTIVE CRITERIA, STAFFING STANDARDS, AND FISCAL**
33 **SUSTAINABILITY MEASURES GOVERNING THE**
34 **ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS DIVISIONS UNDER THIS ACT,**
35 **SUBJECT TO REVIEW AT LEAST ONCE EVERY FIVE (5) YEARS.**
36

37 **XXX"**
38

39 **SEC. 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within ninety (90)
40 days from the implementation of this Act, the DepEd shall promulgate the rules
41 and regulations for the effective implementation of this act.
42

43 **SEC. 3. Repealing Clause.** Republic Act No. 9155 is hereby amended.
44 All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, resolutions, rules and
45 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
46 Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
47

1 **SEC. 4. Separability Clause.** Should any provision of this Act or any
2 part hereof be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not
3 affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.
4

5
6 **SEC 5. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
7 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
8 circulation.

Approved,