

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*Second Regular Session*

House Bill No. **11315**



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Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to create permanent School Security Officer (SSO) positions in all public schools, and establish a comprehensive school safety and security program for all public and private basic education institutions nationwide.

The right to quality education cannot be fully realized when learners and school personnel remain exposed to preventable threats within school premises and during school-related activities. Schools must first and foremost maintain an environment that protects its community from physical, psychological, digital, and other hazards that may compromise their safety and well-being.

The bill creates permanent SSO plantilla positions under the Department of Education (DepEd). This ensures that school security in all public schools is supported by a stable workforce rather than relying solely on contractual or outsourced personnel. Private schools shall likewise comply with applicable safety and security requirements, with compliance as one of the conditions to renew their license and permits. Through these, this measure establishes a baseline of protection while allowing security measures to respond to the emerging risks and threats.

School safety must not depend on whether or not a tragedy has already occurred. Every learner deserves to enter a school knowing that measures are in place to protect them, and every parent deserves the assurance that the institution entrusted with their child's education is prepared to keep them safe. The State must act before lives are lost, not only after.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**HON. ERIC G. YAP**

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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING PERMANENT SCHOOL SECURITY OFFICER POSITIONS IN ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE AND ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY PROGRAM FOR ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Schools Security and Safety Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels. The State recognizes that the full realization of this constitutional mandate inherently requires educational institutions to be safe, secure, and nurturing havens conducive to learning and development.

Towards this end, the State shall establish a comprehensive school safety and security program applicable to all public and private elementary schools, and create permanent plantilla positions for School Security Officers (SSOs) in all public basic education institutions nationwide.

SEC. 3. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all public and private basic education institutions, hereinafter referred to as “schools”, including elementary schools, secondary schools, other basic education institutions as may be covered by the Department of Education (DepEd).

The provisions of this Act shall apply to all learners, school personnel, and other members of the school community. It shall encompass measures for the prevention of, response to, and recovery from hazards and threats to their safety and well-being within school premises and in other venues related to school activities, whether conducted on or off campus, including those conducted through or involving digital platforms and technologies.

SEC. 4. *Creation of Plantilla Positions for School Security Officers.* – There are hereby created permanent plantilla positions of School Security Officer (SSO) under the DepEd for all public schools nationwide. SSOs shall be career government personnel appointed in accordance with civil service laws, rules, and regulations and shall receive all rights, privileges, benefits, and protections accorded to government employees. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in coordination with DepEd and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall create the corresponding staffing pattern, salary grades, and funding requirements for SSO positions necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 5. *Deployment of School Security Officers.* – The deployment of SSOs shall be as follows:

a. Every public school shall be assigned at least one (1) School Security Officer;

b. Additional School Security Officer positions shall be allocated according to the following minimum standards:

1. At least one (1) SSO for schools with up to one thousand (1,000) learners;

2. At least two (2) SSOs for schools with one thousand and one (1,001) to three thousand (3,000) learners; and

3. One (1) additional SSO for every additional two thousand (2,000) learners or a fraction thereof.

The DepEd may assign additional SSOs to public schools located in high-risk areas or those identified as requiring heightened security based on threat assessments. The use of contractual, job-order, or outsourced security personnel shall only serve as a supplementary measure and shall not substitute for permanent SSO plantilla positions.

SEC. 6. *Qualification Standards, Duties, and Responsibilities of School Security Officers.* – The CSC, in coordination with DepEd and DBM, shall establish the qualification standards, competency requirements, eligibility requirements, training standards, duties, responsibilities, performance measures, and career advancement system for SSOs created under this Act.

SEC. 7. *Establishment of Direct Emergency Hotlines.* – To ensure immediate response during crises, all schools are mandated to establish a dedicated direct Emergency Hotline System. This system must have direct and prioritized routing to the nearest Philippine National Police (PNP) station and local emergency medical services. A localized communication protocol shall also be established for the immediate notification of parents and guardians during school emergencies.

SEC. 8. *Preventive Measures and Safety Equipment.* – The DepEd shall ensure that all schools are equipped with necessary preventive security infrastructure. To this end, the DepEd shall allocate resources for the following:

- a. The acquisition and utilization of metal detectors and other appropriate screening devices to regulate entry;
- b. The strategic installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras along school perimeters, entryways, and key common areas, in accordance with Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “*Data Privacy Act of 2012*”; and
- c. The construction, structural repair, and fortification of school perimeter fences to prevent unauthorized intrusions.

SEC. 9. *Compliance for Private Schools.* – Private elementary schools shall comply with the applicable school safety and security requirements provided under this Act. Compliance therewith shall form part of the conditions for the issuance and renewal of a private school’s licenses and permits.

SEC. 10. *Coordination with Local Government Units and National Agencies.* – The DepEd shall continuously coordinate with the PNP, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the National Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC), local government units (LGUs), and other relevant agencies to conduct regular school safety audits, share intelligence regarding physical and digital threats against schools, and deploy increased police visibility during opening and dismissal hours in high-risk zones.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd shall, in consultation with the DBM, the CSC, the DILG, and the PNP, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

*Approved,*