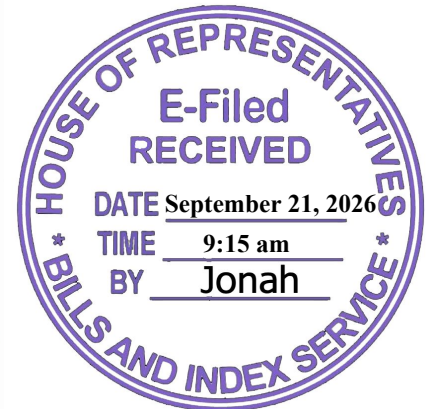


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL No. 11390



Introduced by REP. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH, WELLNESS, SPORTS, RECREATIONAL, AND RELATED ACTIVITIES DURING NON-CLASS DAYS, PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people, encourage physical education and sports, and promote the general welfare through programs that improve the quality of life of every Filipino. Public schools, as government institutions, possess infrastructure that can serve not only educational purposes but also the broader needs of the communities they serve.

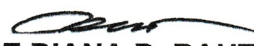
Across the country, many public schools have gymnasiums, covered courts, multipurpose halls, sports facilities, and open spaces that remain largely unused during weekends, holidays, semestral breaks, and other non-class days. At the same time, many communities lack safe, accessible, and affordable venues for physical fitness, recreational activities, medical missions, wellness programs, health education, and other community-based initiatives.

This bill seeks to maximize the use of existing public school infrastructure by authorizing the use of multipurpose school facilities for health, wellness, sports, recreational, and related community activities during non-class days. Such use shall always be subject to the approval of school authorities and shall not interfere with regular classes, official school activities, or the maintenance and security of school property.

The measure encourages collaboration among the Department of Education, local government units, the Department of Health, community organizations, and other stakeholders in promoting preventive healthcare, active lifestyles, mental wellness, and community engagement. It likewise ensures that the primary educational purpose of schools is preserved while allowing public resources to be utilized more efficiently for the benefit of the surrounding community.

By opening school facilities for responsible community use during periods when they are not being utilized for instruction, this proposed measure promotes healthier communities, strengthens partnerships between schools and local governments, encourages citizen participation, and maximizes the value of government investments in public infrastructure.

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


CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA-LIM
DUMPER PTDA Party-List

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1. 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, Article II, Section 15; Article II, Section 17; and Article XIV, Section 19.
 2. Republic Act No. 9155, otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001.
 3. Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.
 4. Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act.

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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 "**Community Access to School Wellness Facilities Act.**"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote and protect the right to health of the people, encourage physical fitness and active lifestyles, strengthen community participation, and maximize the efficient use of government infrastructure. The State likewise recognizes that public school facilities are valuable community assets that may be utilized beyond instructional purposes, provided that such use does not interfere with the delivery of quality education or compromise the safety and security of students, teachers, and school property.

SECTION 3. Objectives. - This Act aims to:

- (a) Maximize the utilization of existing public school infrastructure during periods when classes are not being conducted;
- (b) Promote healthy lifestyles through accessible community-based health and wellness activities;
- (c) Encourage sports, recreation, fitness, and preventive health programs;
- (d) Strengthen partnerships among schools, local government units, and community organizations; and
- (e) Foster community ownership and shared responsibility in the preservation of public school facilities.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act:

(a) **Public School Multi-Purpose Infrastructure** refers to school gymnasiums, covered courts, multipurpose halls, open grounds, sports facilities, jogging paths, playgrounds, and other facilities suitable for community activities.

(b) **Non-Class Days** refer to Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, semestral breaks, Christmas vacation, summer vacation, and other days when no regular classes or official school activities are scheduled.

(c) **Health and Wellness Activities** include physical fitness programs, exercise classes, walking and jogging activities, sports clinics, community sports, yoga, aerobics, dance fitness, wellness seminars, nutrition education, preventive health campaigns, blood donation drives, vaccination activities, medical and dental missions, mental health programs, and similar community-based activities.

SECTION 5. Authorized Use. - Subject to the approval of the School Head and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Education (DepEd), public school multi-purpose infrastructure may be made available for health, wellness, sports, recreational, and other community development activities during non-class days.

Priority shall be given to programs organized or endorsed by:

- (a) The Department of Education;
- (b) The Department of Health;
- (c) The Local Government Unit;
- (d) Barangays;
- (e) Government agencies;
- (f) Accredited civic organizations;
- (g) Non-government organizations; and
- (h) Community associations.

SECTION 6. Conditions for Use. - The use of school facilities shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Educational activities shall at all times take precedence over community use;
- (b) Activities shall not damage school property or disrupt school operations;

- (c) Users shall maintain cleanliness, sanitation, peace, and order;
- (d) No activity shall involve gambling, political campaigning, partisan political meetings, unlawful assemblies, or activities contrary to law or public morals;
- (e) Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, firearms, and other dangerous weapons shall be strictly prohibited within school premises except as otherwise authorized by law; and
- (f) Users shall comply with safety, security, and environmental regulations prescribed by the Department of Education.

SECTION 7. Management and Scheduling. - The School Head shall establish a transparent scheduling system to regulate the use of school facilities and ensure equitable access by community groups while preserving the primary educational function of the school.

SECTION 8. Maintenance and Liability. - Organizations or individuals authorized to use school facilities shall be responsible for maintaining cleanliness and order during the activity and shall be liable for any damage caused to school property through negligence or intentional acts.

The Department of Education may require reasonable security deposits, indemnity agreements, or proof of insurance for large-scale activities, as may be provided in the Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 9. Coordination with Local Government Units. - Local Government Units may provide logistical, financial, maintenance, medical, security, and emergency response assistance to schools implementing this Act.

SECTION 10. Accessibility. - Whenever practicable, schools shall ensure that facilities used under this Act are reasonably accessible to senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), children, and other vulnerable sectors.

SECTION 11. Fees. - The Department of Education may authorize the collection of reasonable maintenance or utility fees solely to cover operational expenses, provided that no fees shall be charged for activities conducted by government agencies in the exercise of their official functions or for community health programs sponsored by the government.

SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Health, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Philippine Sports Commission, and concerned stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 13. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 14. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 15. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, rules, regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 16. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,