



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 11400

Introduced by Representative DE CARLO "OYO" L. UY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The safety and protection of children and young people are fundamental responsibilities of the State. Schools, as key institutions for learning and development, should provide safe and secure environments conducive to the well-being and development of learners.

The Philippines has an existing regulatory framework governing the ownership and possession of firearms under Republic Act No. 10591, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act." Among others, the law requires the safekeeping of firearms through a vault or container secured by lock and key or other security measures. It also provides sanctions for the negligent loss of firearms and failure to report lost or stolen firearms. These measures provide a regulatory foundation for responsible firearm ownership and safekeeping.

Notwithstanding these safeguards, existing requirements may be further strengthened to specifically address the risk of unauthorized access to firearms by minors. A legally owned firearm that is not adequately secured may be accessed by a child or adolescent, increasing the risk of firearm-related injury or death. Establishing clear and enforceable safe-storage responsibilities for firearm owners can complement existing firearm regulations and strengthen preventive measures for the protection of minors.

The proposed measure seeks to build on these existing policies by strengthening safe firearm storage, school-based threat assessment and early intervention, protected reporting mechanisms, and emergency preparedness and response.

The immediate approval of this urgent bill is earnestly sought.


DE CARLO "OYO" L. UY
Representative
First District, Davao del Norte



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE SAFE SCHOOLS FRAMEWORK THROUGH
STRENGTHENING FIREARM SAFETY, EARLY INTERVENTION, THREAT
ASSESSMENT, CONFIDENTIAL REPORTING, AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS IN
SCHOOLS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR GROSSLY NEGLIGENT FIREARM STORAGE
RESULTING IN MINOR ACCESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER I.
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Safe Schools Act of 2026.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold and protect the safety, security, and welfare of children and all members of the school community. and to prevent firearm-related injuries, deaths, and other acts of violence involving minors.

The State recognizes that ensuring safe and secure learning environments requires a comprehensive and preventive approach that addresses the risks associated with unauthorized access to firearms by minors, while strengthening the capacity of schools to identify, assess, and respond to threats of violence. For this purpose, the State shall promote responsible firearm ownership and secure firearm storage, early identification and intervention, confidential reporting of threats and other serious warning signs, effective emergency preparedness and response, and coordinated action among schools, families, law enforcement agencies, local government units, and other relevant institutions.

The State recognizes that qualified persons may lawfully own and possess firearms in accordance with Republic Act No. 10591 and other applicable laws. Such lawful ownership and possession carries the corresponding responsibility to exercise reasonable care and diligence in the custody and storage of firearms, particularly where minors may gain access thereto.

Accordingly, the State shall establish measures to prevent minors from gaining unauthorized access to firearms and shall hold accountable firearm owners whose gross negligence results in such access, without prejudice to the constitutional rights of the accused and the requirement that all elements of the offense be established in accordance with law.

The State shall likewise strengthen the capacity of educational institutions to prevent and address school violence through school-based threat assessment and early-intervention mechanisms, confidential and accessible reporting channels for threats, weapons, bullying, and other serious warning signs, and national standards for lockdown, evacuation, emergency communication, and coordination with law enforcement, emergency responders, and other concerned agencies.

Through these measures, the State seeks to foster a culture of prevention, responsibility, vigilance, and collective action in protecting children and maintaining schools as safe and secure places for learning.

SECTION 3. Objectives. – This Act shall pursue the following objectives:

- a) Prevent minors from gaining unauthorized access to firearms;
- b) Promote responsible and secure firearm storage;
- c) Establish accountability for grossly negligent firearm storage resulting in unauthorized access by a minor;
- d) Strengthen the prompt reporting of lost or stolen firearms;
- e) Establish school-based mechanisms for threat assessment and early intervention;
- f) Provide safe and confidential mechanisms for reporting threats, weapons, bullying, and other serious warning signs;
- g) Establish national standards for school emergency preparedness, including lockdown, evacuation, emergency communication, and coordination with law enforcement and emergency responders; and
- h) Promote a culture of prevention, safety, accountability, and nonviolence in educational institutions.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be used:

- a) “*Minor*” refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age;
- b) “*Safe storage*” refers to the storage of a firearm in a manner reasonably designed to prevent unauthorized access, particularly by minors, including the use of a locked firearm safe, vault, secure container, or other locking or security device prescribed or recognized by the Philippine National Police;
- c) “*Unauthorized access*” refers to access to, possession of, or use of a firearm by a person who is not legally authorized to possess or use such firearm;
- d) “*Gross negligence*” refers to an act or omission characterized by want of even slight care or by a conscious and voluntary disregard of a substantial and unjustifiable risk that a minor may gain unauthorized access to a firearm;
- e) “*Threat assessment*” refers to a structured process of identifying, evaluating, and managing behavior, communications, circumstances, or other indicators that may reasonably suggest a risk of violence or serious harm to persons within the school community;
- f) “*Serious warning sign*” refers to a credible threat, expression of intent to cause serious harm, possession or attempted introduction of a firearm or other weapon into school premises, severe or escalating bullying, stalking, targeted intimidation, or other conduct that reasonably indicates a potential risk of serious violence; and
- g) “*School emergency*” refers to an actual or imminent incident or circumstance that poses a significant threat to the life, safety, or security of students, school personnel, or other persons within school premises.

CHAPTER II.
SAFE FIREARM STORAGE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SECTION 5. *Safe Storage of Firearms Where Minors May Have Access.* – Any firearm owner or licensee who owns or possesses a firearm in a residence, establishment, vehicle, or other premises to which a minor has access shall exercise reasonable care to prevent the firearm from being accessed or used by the minor.

For purposes of this Act, safe storage shall include:

- a) Keeping the firearm in a locked firearm safe, vault, or secure container;
- b) Keeping the firearm inaccessible to minors when not under the immediate control of the authorized owner or user;
- c) Separating ammunition from the firearm when practicable and consistent with applicable safety standards; and
- d) Using appropriate locking devices or other security measures prescribed by the Philippine National Police – Firearms and Explosives Office (PNP-FEO).

A firearm shall not be considered safely stored merely because it is placed in a location that is difficult for a minor to discover or reach, unless such location and manner of storage comply with standards prescribed under this Act.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a firearm owner to surrender, transfer, or dispose of a lawfully registered firearm

SECTION 6. *Prohibition on Grossly Negligent Storage Resulting in Minor Access.* – A firearm owner or lawful possessor commits grossly negligent storage resulting in minor access when:

- a) the firearm is subject to the safe-storage duty under Section 5;
- b) a minor obtains unauthorized access to the firearm; and
- c) such unauthorized access is proximately caused by the owner's or possessor's grossly negligent failure to store or secure the firearm in accordance with this Act.

For purposes of this Section, gross negligence refers to an act or omission manifesting a want of even slight care, or a conscious and voluntary disregard of a substantial and unjustifiable risk that a minor may gain unauthorized access to the firearm.

The mere fact that a minor obtained access to the firearm shall not, by itself, establish gross negligence.

No liability shall arise where the owner or possessor substantially complied with the storage requirements and the minor obtained access through unlawful entry, theft, defeat of a compliant locking device, or a genuine emergency not attributable to the owner's or possessor's gross negligence.

SECTION 7. *Penalty for Grossly Negligent Storage.* – Any person found guilty under Section 6 of this Act shall suffer:

- a) For the first offense, imprisonment of six (6) months and one (1) day to two (2) years, and a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (₱50,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (₱200,000.00);

b) If the minor obtains possession of the firearm and uses it in the commission of an offense, the penalty under paragraph (a) shall be imposed without prejudice to criminal liability arising from the separate offense and other applicable laws; and

c) If the minor suffers death or serious physical injuries as a direct consequence of the grossly negligent storage, the penalty shall be imprisonment of two (2) years and one (1) day to six (6) years, and a fine of not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), without prejudice to civil and other criminal liability under existing laws.

The court may likewise order the suspension or revocation of the firearm license in accordance with Republic Act No. 10591.

SECTION 8. *Immediate Reporting of Lost or Stolen Firearms.* - In addition to the reporting requirements under Republic Act No. 10591, a licensed firearm owner or lawful possessor shall report the loss or theft of a firearm to the PNP Firearms and Explosives Office within twenty-four (24) hours from discovery thereof.

The report shall contain, insofar as available:

- a) The firearm make, model, caliber, and serial number;
- b) The circumstances and approximate time and place of the loss or theft; and
- c) Other information necessary to facilitate identification and recovery of the firearm.

Failure to comply with the foregoing reportorial requirement may constitute a ground for appropriate administrative action on the firearm license or permit, after notice and opportunity to be heard, in accordance with this Act, Republic Act No. 10591, and applicable rules and regulations.

Nothing in this Section shall be construed to repeal or diminish any separate liability arising under Section 40 of Republic Act No. 10591.

SECTION 9. *Firearm Safety Education.* - The PNP-FEO, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), local government units, and other concerned agencies, shall develop and disseminate firearm safety and responsible ownership materials emphasizing:

- a) Safe storage;
- b) Prevention of unauthorized access by minors;
- c) Recognition of the risks associated with unsecured firearms;
- d) Proper reporting of lost or stolen firearms; and
- e) Appropriate response when a child or student encounters a firearm.

Firearm safety education under this section shall not include instruction in the use of firearms to minors.

191 CHAPTER III.
192 SCHOOL THREAT ASSESSMENT AND EARLY INTERVENTION
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195 **SECTION 10. *School-Based Threat Assessment and Early Intervention.*** - All public and private
196 elementary and secondary schools shall establish a School Threat and Assessment and Response
197 (STAR) Team.

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199 The STAR Team shall be headed by the school head or a designated administrator and shall include,
200 when available, the school guidance counselor, school nurse, child protection officer, and other
201 appropriately trained personnel.

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203 All STAR Team members shall undergo initial training prescribed by the Department of Education and
204 periodic refresher training at intervals prescribed in the implementing rules and regulations, but not less
205 frequently than once every three (3) years.

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207 **SECTION 11. *Functions and Responsibilities.*** – The STAR Team shall:

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209 a) Receive and assess reports concerning credible threats or serious warning signs;
210 b) Determine whether immediate protective action is necessary;
211 c) Develop appropriate intervention and safety plans;
212 d) Refer students to counseling, mental health, social welfare, or other appropriate services when
213 necessary;
214 e) Coordinate with parents or guardians, subject to applicable child protection and privacy laws;
215 f) Coordinate with law enforcement or emergency responders when there is a credible and
216 imminent threat of serious harm; and
217 g) Maintain appropriate documentation and confidential records of assessments and interventions.
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219 Threat assessment shall be preventive, protective, behavior-based, and individualized. It shall be based
220 on reasonably observable conduct, communications, circumstances, and other articulable facts.
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222 No person shall be designated as a threat solely on the basis of disability, mental-health status, race,
223 sex, religion, political belief, protected expression, socioeconomic status, academic performance,
224 disciplinary history, or any other status unrelated to an individualized assessment of risk.
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227 CHAPTER IV.
228 PROTECTED REPORTING MECHANISM
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231 **SECTION 12. *Confidential Reporting Mechanism.*** - Every public and private school shall establish
232 at least one confidential reporting mechanism through which students, teachers, personnel, parents,
233 guardians, and other members of the school community may report:
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- 235 a) Threats of violence;
236 b) Possession or attempted introduction of firearms or other weapons into school premises;
237 c) Bullying, intimidation, stalking, or targeted harassment;
238 d) Expressions or conduct indicating a serious risk of violence;
239 e) Knowledge concerning a planned violent act; and
240 f) Other serious warning signs requiring immediate intervention.
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242 An anonymous report may trigger assessment and appropriate protective action, but no final adverse
243 disciplinary finding shall be based solely on an anonymous report without independent verification or
244 other substantial evidence.
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The identity of a person who makes a confidential report shall be protected to the fullest extent permitted by law and shall be disclosed only when necessary for the protection of life or safety, for the conduct of an authorized investigation, or as otherwise required by law.

No person shall be subjected to retaliation solely for making a good-faith report under this Act.

A person who knowingly and maliciously makes a false report for the purpose of causing harm to another person shall be subject to appropriate administrative or disciplinary action under existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 13. *Immediate Response to Reports Involving Weapons or Imminent Threats.* - When a school receives information indicating that a firearm or other weapon may be present on school premises, or that an imminent threat of serious violence exists, the school shall immediately implement appropriate protective measures based on the circumstances and risk level.

Where necessary, the school shall promptly coordinate with the nearest law enforcement agency and emergency responders.

Nothing in this section shall require school personnel to physically confront, search, disarm, or apprehend a person believed to possess a firearm.

CHAPTER V. SCHOOL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

SECTION 14. *National School Emergency Preparedness Standards.* - The DepEd, in coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Department of Health (DOH), CHED, TESDA, and other concerned agencies, shall establish national standards for school emergency preparedness and response. The standards shall include, as appropriate:

- a) Lockdown and shelter-in-place procedures;
- b) Evacuation procedures and designated assembly areas;
- c) Emergency communication and notification systems;
- d) Procedures for accounting for students and school personnel;
- e) Coordination protocols with law enforcement, fire, medical, and disaster-response authorities;
- f) Procedures for reunification of students with parents or guardians following an emergency;
- g) Accessibility measures for students and personnel with disabilities and other special needs;
- h) Post-incident psychological and psychosocial support; and
- i) Regular review and updating of school emergency plans.

Emergency procedures shall be risk-based and shall not require a lockdown where evacuation, sheltering, or another response is reasonably safer under the circumstances.

SECTION 15. *Emergency Drills and Training.* - Emergency preparedness exercises under this Section shall be conducted in accordance with the National School Emergency Preparedness Standards promulgated pursuant to Section 14 of this Act. Such exercises shall be age-appropriate, accessible, and designed to avoid unnecessary psychological distress or trauma among students.

The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall establish minimum training requirements for school administrators, teachers, security personnel, and other designated personnel on emergency communication, evacuation, lockdown procedures, threat recognition, first aid, and coordination with emergency responders.

SECTION 16. *Coordination with Law Enforcement.* – The PNP, in coordination with the DepEd, CHED, TESDA, and LGUs, shall establish protocols for timely coordination between schools and law enforcement agencies in cases involving:

- a) Credible threats of violence;
- b) Firearms or other weapons found on school premises;
- c) Threats against students or school personnel;
- d) Planned or attempted acts of school violence; and
- e) Other circumstances presenting an imminent danger to life or safety.

Such protocols shall respect the constitutional rights of students, school personnel, and other persons, including due process, privacy, and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Nothing in this Act shall independently authorize a search, seizure, arrest, interception, disclosure of private communication, or examination of a digital device except in accordance with the 1987 Constitution, the Rules of Court, and applicable law.

SECTION 17. *Protection of Students and Reporting Persons.* - No student, teacher, school employee, or other person who in good faith reports a threat, weapon, bullying incident, or serious warning sign shall be subjected to retaliation, intimidation, harassment, or disciplinary action solely by reason of such report.

Schools shall establish appropriate measures to protect reporting persons from retaliation.

The protections under this section shall be implemented consistently with Republic Act No. 10627 and other applicable child protection laws and regulations.

SECTION 18. *Confidentiality and Data Protection.* – All records concerning threat assessments, confidential reports, and interventions under this Act shall be treated as confidential and shall be handled in accordance with applicable laws on data privacy, child protection, and access to information.

Schools shall collect only information reasonably necessary for the prevention and management of school violence.

Aggregated and anonymized data may be used for policy development, planning, and evaluation.

Records created through threat assessment shall be limited to information reasonably necessary for school-safety purposes, subject to appropriate access controls, retained only for as long as reasonably necessary for such purpose, and securely disposed of thereafter, subject to applicable law.

CHAPTER VI. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

SECTION 19. *Duties of the Department of Education.* - The DepEd shall:

- a) Establish national standards for the implementation of school safety measures under this Act;
- b) Develop model protocols for threat assessment, confidential reporting, emergency response, and post-incident intervention;
- c) Provide training and capacity-building programs for school personnel;
- d) Establish mechanisms for monitoring compliance;
- e) Coordinate with the PNP and other agencies concerning threats involving firearms and weapons; and
- f) Submit an annual report to Congress on the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 20. *Duties of the Commission on Higher Education and TESDA.* – The CHED and TESDA shall adopt appropriate policies and standards for higher education institutions and technical-vocational institutions, respectively, consistent with the principles and objectives of this Act.

They shall establish appropriate mechanisms for threat assessment, confidential reporting, emergency preparedness, and coordination with law enforcement and emergency responders.

SECTION 21. *Duties of the Philippine National Police.* – The PNP, through the PNP Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) and other appropriate units, shall:

- a) Develop standards for firearm storage devices and safe-storage practices;
- b) Conduct information and education campaigns on responsible firearm storage;
- c) Maintain mechanisms for the prompt recording and dissemination of reports involving lost or stolen firearms;
- d) Coordinate with schools regarding threats involving firearms; and
- e) Include firearm safety and minor-access prevention in appropriate firearms licensing and safety education programs.

SECTION 22. *Local Government Support.* – Local government units shall support the implementation of this Act within their respective jurisdictions, including through:

- a) Coordination among schools, local police, fire protection, health, disaster-risk reduction, and social welfare offices;
- b) Support for emergency communication and preparedness systems;
- c) Provision or facilitation of appropriate training and capacity-building activities; and
- d) Other measures consistent with their powers and functions under existing laws.

CHAPTER VII. FUNDING, OVERSIGHT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

SECTION 23. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DepEd, PNP, CHED, TESDA, and other concerned agencies under the current General Appropriations Act.

Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

LGUs may appropriate funds from their local development and other legally available funds for the implementation of programs consistent with this Act, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 24. *Congressional Oversight and Annual Report.* – The Secretary of Education, Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, Chief of the PNP, Chairperson of the CHED, and Director General of TESDA shall submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of the Senate and House of Representatives containing:

- a) The status of implementation of this Act;
- b) The number of schools implementing threat assessment and confidential reporting mechanisms;
- c) The number and general nature of reported threats and weapons-related incidents;
- d) The number of emergency preparedness exercises conducted;
- e) Major implementation challenges; and
- f) Recommendations for legislative or policy improvements.

All reports involving minors shall be anonymized and shall not contain personally identifiable information except as otherwise authorized by law.

SECTION 25. *Prohibition on Retaliation.* – Any person who knowingly retaliates against a student, teacher, school personnel, parent, guardian, or other person for making a good-faith report under this Act shall be subject to appropriate administrative, civil, or criminal liability under existing laws, as may be applicable.

SECTION 26. *Administrative Sanctions.* – The appropriate government agency shall prescribe administrative sanctions against school administrators or responsible personnel who willfully and repeatedly fail to comply with the mandatory requirements of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations. No administrative sanction shall be imposed solely on the basis of a good-faith exercise of professional judgment in responding to an emergency or threat.

Administrative sanctions for willful and repeated noncompliance shall be imposed only in accordance with the sanctions authorized by this Act or under applicable Civil Service, DepEd, CHED, TESDA, school-licensing, or other existing disciplinary laws and regulations.

SECTION 27. *Relationship with Republic Act No. 10591.* – Nothing in this Act shall authorize double punishment for the same offense.

Where an act or omission constitutes a distinct offense under Republic Act No. 10591 or another law, liability for such distinct offense shall be without prejudice to liability under this Act, subject to the 1987 Constitution and applicable rules on double jeopardy.

The PNP shall harmonize the implementing rules and regulations of this Act with R.A. No. 10591.

CHAPTER VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 28. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the PNP, DILG, CHED, TESDA, OCD, BFP, DOH, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 29. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder or any provision of this Act not thereby affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 30. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 31. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,