



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11448



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10627 or the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013 was the glimmer of hope for countless learners suffering in silence. Yet, the sad and painful reality is that the law has not served as a sufficient deterrent against bullies, nor has it offered a strong shield for the victims.

We can no longer stay complacent while our children are subjected to all sorts of acts or words that instill fear, humiliation, and life-threatening harm in spaces meant to be safe for learning and growth. The undeniable need to fortify our laws and impose penalties has never been clearer.

According to the updated 2022 report of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), 1 out of 3 Filipino students reported being bullied in schools. Just recently, there was an 8-year-old student in Davao City who died from a traumatic brain injury after being mercilessly struck by a classmate,¹ and two 16-year-old students in Zamboanga City who were stabbed during a violent altercation fueled by bullying.²

The Department of Education (DepEd) has attempted to stem the tide through internal administrative frameworks. Under DepEd Order No. 55, s. 2013, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the Anti-Bullying Act required schools to form Child Protection Committees and adopt local intervention programs. Acknowledging the escalating severity of school violence, DepEd recently issued DepEd Order No. 006, s. 2026, or the Guidelines on Ensuring a Safe and Motivating

¹ Kristoffer Lou Ataylar, Rojean Grace G. Patumbon, and David Ezra M. Francisquete, "Alleged Bullied Child Dies of Brain Injury," *SunStar*, July 24, 2026, <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/alleged-bullied-child-dies-of-brain-injury>.

² Leah D. Agonoy, "2 Students Wounded in Zamboanga City School Stabbing Incident," *INQUIRER.net*, July 1, 2026, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2256219/2-students-wounded-in-zamboanga-city-school-stabbing-incident>.

Learning Environment (ESMLE). This urgent policy enforces a progressive disciplinary framework where high-risk bullying offenses can result in preventive suspension, non-readmission, permanent exclusion, and immediate turnover to law enforcement.

However, administrative department orders alone are not enough to dismantle this systemic issue. While DepEd policies outline vital procedures for intervention and school-level discipline, the statutory law itself must evolve to mandate harsher penalties and broader institutional accountability.

To address the gap, this bill seeks to strengthen the protection afforded to the learners by clearly defining what constitutes “bullying” and outline corresponding penalties for such acts. This aims to afford protection to all the student population, particularly those who are disproportionately targeted, including students suffering from mental and/or physical disabilities, members of the LGBTQ Community, and all other vulnerable individuals who suffer silently in the hands of bullies.

We should aim to create a society where bullying does not exist. Only when this culture of intimidation stops can we expect our students to thrive and excel, and our communities to remain peaceful. Thus, the swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO
Representative
2nd District, Davao Oriental



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE CHEENO MIGUEL D. ALMARIO**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION AGAINST BULLYING IN SCHOOLS,
DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE CRIME OF BULLYING

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 “***Stop Bullying Act***”.

Section 2. Bullying, defined. - For purposes of this Act, “bullying” shall refer to any severe or repeated use by an individual or a group of persons, of a written, verbal or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another individual or a group of persons, that has the effect of actually causing or placing the victim in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm or damage to the latter’s dignity or reputation; creating a hostile environment for the latter at a school, or at any public space, or any private establishment open for public use.

Section 3. Specific acts of Bullying. – A bully may either be a student, teacher, or any person who commits the act of bullying as defined by this Act.

Any person may be a victim of bullying, regardless of age, gender, socio-economic status, religion, or health condition.

Acts of bullying shall include, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Any unwanted physical contact between the bully and the victim like punching, pushing, shoving, kicking, slapping, tickling, headlocks, inflicting excessive pranks, teasing, fighting, or the use of available objects as weapons;
- b. Any slanderous statement or accusation that causes the victim undue emotional distress like directing foul language or profanity at the target, name-calling, tormenting and commenting negatively on victim's looks, clothes and body;

- c. Mocking or imitating the physical disability or manner of speech of the victim;
- d. Making multiple unwarranted rude comments regarding a person's skin tone, gender, age, or physical appearance or disability;
- e. Spreading gossip in the school, or through social media;
- f. Cyber-bullying, or bullying done through the use of technology through use of other form of technology such as, but not limited to, texting, email, instant messaging, internet chat, social media, online game, other platforms or formats. It may also be committed during an online class, live streaming, or by commenting on a public social media post or sharing the same with a caption that is harmful to the victim's dignity or reputation;
- g. Gender-based bullying act that humiliates or excludes a person on the basis of perceived or actual sexual orientation and gender identity.;
- h. Any other act that causes damage to a victim's psychological and/or emotional well-being; and
- i. Any act of retaliation against a person who reports bullying, or who provides information during an investigation of bullying, or who is a witness to or has reliable information about bullying is likewise prohibited.

Section 4. Penalties. –

- a. The penalty of imprisonment ranging from six (6) months and one (1) day to six (6) years, a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000), or both shall be imposed upon any person found guilty for violating this Act.
- b. Liability of Minors. An individual, acting alone or as a part of a group, which violates the offense at age 15 years old or lower or above 15 years old but below 18 who acted without discernment is exempted from criminal liability. Any minor which violates this Act shall be penalized in accordance with Republic Act No. 9344, as amended, and other pertinent laws. The exemption from criminal liability herein established does not include exemption from civil liability, which shall be enforced in accordance with existing laws.
- c. Civil Liability. A penalty of One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000) but not exceeding Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000) shall be imposed upon any person found guilty of bullying.

Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) calendar days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Justice, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and Department of Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 6. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force or effect.

Section 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 8. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,