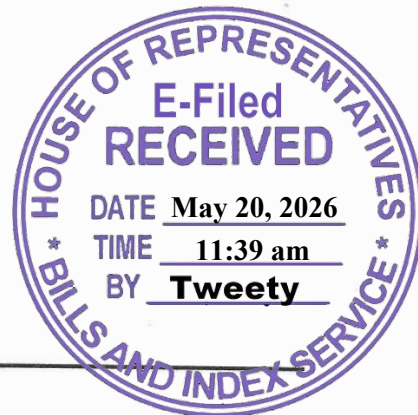


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 319

Submitted by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture on May 20, 2026
Re : **House Bill No. 9358**
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7607.
Sponsor : Representative Roman T. Romulo

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Basic Education and Culture, to which was referred House Bill No. 7607, introduced by Representatives Roman T. Romulo, Jude A. Acidre, Ziaur-Rahman "Zia" Alonto Adiong, Steve Chiongbian Solon, and Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, entitled:

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9155, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "GOVERNANCE OF BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2001"**

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No. 9358, entitled:

**AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9155, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "GOVERNANCE OF BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2001"**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 7607, with Representatives Roman T. Romulo, Jude A. Acidre, Ziaur-Rahman "Zia" Alonto Adiong, Steve Chiongbian Solon, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Antonino B. Roman III, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Agatha Paula Aguilar Cruz, Laarni Lavin Roque, Lorenz R. Defensor, Bernadette G. Escudero, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Dibu S. Tuan, Dale B. Corvera, Eulogio "Leo" R. Rodriguez, Carmelo G. Lazatin, Jr., Salvador A. Pleyto, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Ma. Nina Francesca P. Lacson, Sergio C. Dagooc, and Julius Cesar "Jay" V. Vergara as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

ROMAN T. ROMULO

Chairperson

Committee on Basic Education and Culture

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY**

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9358
(In substitution of House Bill No. 7607)

Introduced by Representatives Roman T. Romulo, Jude A. Acidre, Ziaur-Rahman “Zia” Alonto Adiong, Steve Chiongbian Solon, Anna Victoria Veloso-Tuazon, Antonino B. Roman III, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Agatha Paula Aguilar Cruz, Laarni Lavin Roque, Lorenz R. Defensor, Bernadette G. Escudero, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Dibu S. Tuan, Dale B. Corvera, Eulogio “Leo” R. Rodriguez, Carmelo G. Lazatin, Jr., Salvador A. Pleyto, Ustadz Yusop T. Alano, Ma. Nina Francesca P. Lacson, Sergio C. Dagooc, and Julius Cesar “Jay” V. Vergara

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9155, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“GOVERNANCE OF BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2001”

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

SECTION 1. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9155, otherwise known as the “Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7. *Powers, Duties, and Functions.* – x x x.

x x x

“B. Regional Level

“There shall be as many regional offices as may be provided by law. Each regional office shall have a director, an assistant director and an office staff for program promotion and support, planning, administrative, [and] fiscal, **LEGAL AND ANCILLARY** services.

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

“(1) x x x;

“(2) Developing a regional basic education plan **WHILE MONITORING, EVALUATING AND ASSESSING REGIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES;**

“(3) x x x;

“(4) [Monitoring, evaluating and assessing regional learning outcomes] **CONTEXTUALIZING POLICIES OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE, PROVIDE DIRECTION SETTING FOR THE REGION, AND EXTEND SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE AND COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND STANDARDS;**”

x x x

“C. Division Level

“[A division shall consist of a province or a city which shall have] **AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, UPON ASSESSMENT OF THE OVERALL PROFILE, DEMOGRAPHICS, AND GEOGRAPHIC CONSIDERATIONS, A PROVINCE, CITY, OR MUNICIPALITY, OR A CLUSTER THEREOF MAY CONSTITUTE A DIVISION OR DIVISIONS. EACH DIVISION SHALL HAVE** a schools division superintendent, at least one assistant schools division superintendent and an office staff for programs promotion, planning, administrative, fiscal, legal, ancillary and other support services.

“Consistent with the national educational policies, plans and standards, the schools division superintendents shall have authority, accountability and responsibility for the following:”

x x x

“D. Schools District Level

“Upon the recommendation of the schools division superintendents **AND APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION**, the regional director may establish additional schools district within a schools division. Schools districts already existing at the time of the passage of this law shall be [maintained] **REVIEWED AND RATIONALIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OR A DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.** A schools district shall have a schools district supervisor and an office staff [for program promotion] **STATIONED AT SUCH DISTRICT.**”

x x x

SEC. 2. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 9155 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 13. *Governance in the [ARMM] **BARMM.*** – The [Regional Education Secretary for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)] **MINISTER OF BASIC, HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION OF THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN**

1 **MUSLIM MINDANAO (BARMM)** shall exercise similar governance
2 authority over the divisions, districts, schools and learning centers in the
3 region as may be provided in [the Organic Act without prejudice to the
4 provisions of Republic Act No. 9054, entitled "An Act to Strengthen and
5 Expand the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao,
6 Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 6734, entitled 'An Act
7 Providing for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, as amended."]
8 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ORGANIC**
9 **LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM**
10 **MINDANAO."**

11
12 **"THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AT THE DISCRETION OF**
13 **THE SECRETARY, MAY PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND**
14 **TRAINING PROGRAMS TO THE DIVISIONS, DISTRICTS, SCHOOLS,**
15 **AND LEARNING CENTERS WITHIN BARMM."**

16
17 **SEC. 3.** Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of
18 Education shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation
19 of this Act.

20
21 **SEC. 4.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, resolutions, rules and
22 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
23 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

24
25 **SEC. 5.** Should any provision of this Act or any part hereof be declared
26 unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall remain in force
27 and effect.

28
29 **SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
30 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

31
32 *Approved,*

**House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department**

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 9358
(In substitution of House Bill No. 7607)

(Approved by the Committee on March 2, 2026)

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9155, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “GOVERNANCE OF BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2001”

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVES ROMAN T. ROMULO, JUDE A. ACIDRE, ZIAUR-RAHMAN “ZIA” ALONTO ADIONG, STEVE CHIONGBIAN SOLON, ANNA VICTORIA VELOSO-TUAZON, ANTONINO B. ROMAN III, KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN, AGATHA PAULA AGUILAR CRUZ, LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE, LORENZ R. DEFENSOR, BERNADETTE G. ESCUDERO, MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR, DIBU S. TUAN, DALE B. CORVERA, EULOGIO “LEO” R. RODRIGUEZ, CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR., SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, USTADZ YUSOP T. ALANO, MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON, SERGIO C. DAGOOC, AND JULIUS CESAR “JAY” V. VERGARA**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION & CULTURE**

Committee Chairperson: **REP. ROMAN T. ROMULO**

OBJECTIVES:

- To strengthen regional governance of basic education by empowering the regional offices to set directions within their respective jurisdictions
- To rationalize the creation of schools division based on overall profile, demographics, and geographic considerations

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Strengthens the governance structure of the Department of Education (DepEd) by expanding the functions and staffing of the regional, division, and district offices, including the provision of program promotion and support, planning, administrative, fiscal, legal and ancillary services
- Mandates Regional Directors to contextualize Central Office policies, provide direction setting for the region, and extend support and technical assistance to School Division Offices to ensure the effective and coherent implementation of national programs and standards
- Authorizes the Secretary of Education, upon assessment of the overall profile, demographics, and geographic considerations, to constitute a schools division or divisions in a province, city, or municipality
- Requires that each schools division shall have a schools division superintendent, at least one assistant schools division superintendent, and an office staff for programs promotion, planning, administrative, fiscal, legal, ancillary and other

support services

- Authorizes the regional director to establish additional schools district within a schools division
- Provides that schools districts already existing at the time of the passage of this law shall be reviewed and rationalized by the Secretary of Education or a duly authorized representative
- Mandates the Minister of Basic, Higher and Technical Education of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) to exercise similar governance authority over the divisions, districts, schools and learning centers in the region as may be provided in Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the “Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao”
- Authorizes DepEd, at the discretion of the Secretary, to provide technical assistance and training programs to the divisions, districts, schools, and learning centers within BARMM

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 9155, or the “Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001”
- Republic Act No. 10533, or the “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013”
- Republic Act No. 11054, or the “Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao”