

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 452

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **Honorable Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 10627 or the “Anti-Bullying Act of 2013” is a relatively new law which seeks to address hostile environment at school that disrupts the education process which, in turn, is not conducive to the total development of a child at school.

In view of its school-based approach, however, RA 10627 fails to remedy non-school related acts of bullying in the wider community. The laudable purposes of the law practically begins and ends on school grounds. It is for this reason that an amendatory law is needed to give the existing remedial legislation a greater reach of its coverage.

It is interesting to note, parenthetically, that the Vice President expressed recently that he felt being “bullied” by the Senate and other detractors, while not long after, Senator Grace Poe remarked similarly that she was being “bullied” by a litigant and other critics who are questioning her citizenship and residency. While probably spoken with tongue-in-cheek, these offhand remarks manifest a widespread revulsion at acts of bullying which are generally considered morally reprehensible.

It is not too early to make refinements to the anti-bullying law. By its own terms, RA 10627 would not be dealing with the iconic “street-bully”, but experience reveals that there have been many instances of bullying committed in out-of-school contexts.

It is for the foregoing reasons that the immediate approval of this bill is respectfully recommended.


LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ

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HOUSE BILL NO. 452

Introduced by Honorable Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez

**AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBERED ONE HUNDRED SIX TWENTY-SEVEN (R. A. NO.
10627), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-BULLYING ACT
OF 2013"**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
"Expanded Anti-Bullying Act."

SEC. 2. *Definition of Bullying.* – Section 2 of Republic Act
Numbered One Hundred Six Twenty-Seven (R. A. No. 10627), otherwise
known as the "Anti-Bullying Act of 2013", is hereby amended to read as
follows:

"SEC. 2. *Acts of Bullying.* – For purposes of this Act,
"bullying" shall refer to any severe or repeated use by one or
more CHILDREN [students] of a written, verbal or
electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any
combination thereof, directed at another CHILD [student]
that has the effect of actually causing or placing the latter in
reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm or damage to

his property; creating a hostile environment at school OR IN THE COMMUNITY for the other CHILD [student]; infringing on the rights of the other CHILD [student at school]; or materially and substantially disrupting the GROWTH PROCESS [education process or the orderly operation of a school]; such as, but not limited to the following:

“ X X X

“ X X X

“ X X X

“ X X X

“UNDER THIS ACT, “CHILD” OR “CHILDREN” REFER TO PERSONS BELOW EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE OR THOSE OVER BUT ARE INCAPABLE OR UNABLE TO FULLY TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.”

SEC. 3. *Expanded Coverage.* – Notwithstanding the provisions of R. A. No. 10627, the coverage, policies, mechanisms, reportorial requirement and sanctions for non-compliance of the Anti-Bullying Act, with appropriate changes, shall be applicable to non-school context in the community.



SEC. 4. *Adoption of Anti-Bullying Policies.* – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is hereby directed to adopt policies to address the existence of bullying in the barangays, to govern non-school related instances of bullying. Such policies shall be regularly updated and shall include, with appropriate changes, the provisions of Section 3 of R. A. No. 10627.

SEC. 5. *Mechanisms to Address Bullying.* – To govern instances of non-school related acts of bullying, the local social welfare (DSWD) officer shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of policies provided herein.

Any responsible member of the community, particularly barangay officials, shall immediately report any instance of bullying or act of retaliation witnessed, or that has come to one's attention, to the local social welfare officer or person so designated by him/her to handle such issues, or both. Upon receipt of such a report, the local social welfare officer or designated officer shall promptly investigate. If it is determined that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the local social welfare officer or his/her designate shall:

(a) Notify the law enforcement agency if the local social officer or designate believes that criminal charges under the Revised Penal Code may be pursued against the perpetrator;

(b) Notify the parents or guardians of both the perpetrator(s) and the victim(s), and with respect to the latter, as to the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying or retaliation; and

(c) Conduct immediate counseling or referral to appropriate services for the perpetrators, victims and respective families.

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SEC. 6. *Dissemination and reportorial requirements.* - The DSWD shall disseminate to all barangays the anti-bullying policies formulated within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

At the end of every calendar year following the effectivity of this Act, every barangay chairman shall submit to the local social welfare officer a report on all relevant information and statistics on acts of bullying or retaliation. The local social welfare officer shall compile these data and report the same to the Secretary of the DSWD who shall likewise formally transmit a comprehensive report to the Committee on Youth of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. 7. *Sanction for Noncompliance.* - In the rules and regulations to be implemented pursuant to this Act, the Secretaries of the DSWD and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall prescribe the appropriate administrative sanctions on local social welfare officers and barangay officials who shall fail to comply with the requirements under this Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD and the DILG shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

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SEC. 9. *Separability clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the provisions thereof not affected by such declaration shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing clause.* - All acts, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, located on the right side of the page.