

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5978



Introduced by: **HON. LORNA C. SILVERIO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to the national policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth and students in nation building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social being, the State shall instill disaster awareness and promote active participation in disaster preparedness for the benefit of the nation.

Recent study about national disaster mitigation which was funded by the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) showed that the Filipino people are more reactionary than anticipatory in their disaster-preparedness and hazard awareness programs.

The Philippines, being a tropical country is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world because of its geographic location which is further aggravated as it lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire and the Typhoon Belt.

Last January 12, 2020, Taal volcano had a phreatic eruption from the main crater that spewed ashes to Calabarzon, Metro Manila, some parts of Luzon and Pangasinan in Ilocos Region, resulting in the suspension of classes, work schedules and flights with agricultural damage estimated at Php 3.06 billion. In addition, an average of about twenty typhoons enter the Philippines every year with their strong winds, storm surges and floods frequently damaging many properties and lives of many of its citizens.

This proposed measure aims to integrate in the curricula of all primary and secondary schools of the educational system of the country the subject on disaster awareness and disaster mitigation to instill disaster awareness and promote active participation of the youth, students and society as a whole in disaster preparedness which put them in a better position to assess their surroundings and be more reliable, confident and in control of themselves when an emergency arises.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


LORNA C. SILVERIO

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AN ACT
REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF DISASTER AWARENESS AND DISASTER MITIGATION
AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Teaching of disaster mitigation is hereby required to be part of the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools in the Philippines.

SECTION 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). --- The Department of Education (DepEd) shall adopt the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 3. Appropriations. --- The funds needed for this purpose shall be taken from the appropriation of the Department of Education (DepEd). Thereafter, such amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. --- All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause. --- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


LORNA C SILVERIO