Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

Eighteenth Congress  
1st Regular Session  

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 754

Introduced by Representative JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL

A RESOLUTION
URGING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, TO ENSURE THE FIRE SAFETY COMPLIANCE OF BUILDINGS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN ACCORDANCE TO REPUBLIC ACT 9514 (FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES)

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the Fire Code of the Philippines (Republic Act 9541) provides that it is the policy of the State to ensure public safety and promote economic development through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires. Towards such end, it is incumbent upon the State to enforce all laws, rules and regulations to ensure adherence to standard fire prevention and safe measures, and promote accountability for fire safety in the fire protection service and prevention service;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 115-A, s. 1966 notes that there is indisputable evidence of a considerable rise in accident occurrence every year, especially in schools, most of which are left unrecorded. As such, March has been declared as the Fire Prevention Month;

WHEREAS, summer of this year is fast approaching, where conflagration usually occurs, it is the paramount interest of the State to ensure that the safety of students in the schools, to which they attend to, must be made in highest priority;

WHEREAS, even the University of the Philippines, the country’s national university, has not been spared from the occurrences of recent conflagration in its landmark buildings. In the past five years, four of its historic buildings burnt down: UP Shopping Center in 2018, UP Faculty Center in 2016, Casaa and the UP Alumni Center both in 2015;

WHEREAS, there are reports that various higher education institutions and SUCs, citing academic freedom, are non-compliant to the Fire Code of the Philippines’ requirement that facilities, structures, buildings and occupancies must possess Fire Safety Inspection Certificates (FSIC) issued by the Bureau of Fire Protection;
WHEREAS, jurisprudence does not consider fire as a natural disaster or calamity since it arises almost always from some acts of man. A high degree of prudence must be exercised by SUCs and HEIs in protecting the safety of their students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO URGE THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, TO ENSURE THE FIRE SAFETY COMPLIANCE OF BUILDINGS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN ACCORDANCE TO REPUBLIC ACT 9514 (FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES).

Adopted.

REP. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL