

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2518**



INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF CARBON MONOXIDE
DETECTORS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cases of Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning had been associated with prolonged use of electric generators mostly during power outages. In the last few years, several cases of death and injuries due to CO poisoning have been tallied whether in schools or enclosed homes of the victims.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless toxic gas that poses an extreme danger to people when inhaled for it can kill people within minutes. Carbon monoxide poisoning is a result of inhalation of carbon monoxide gas that can affect the memory, brain function, behavior, and cognition of humans and in extreme cases, exposure to this toxic gas results in death. If inhaled, it can kill people within minutes.

Early symptoms include drowsiness and headache, followed by unconsciousness, respiratory failure, and death. First aid for a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning requires access to fresh air; administration of artificial respiration and if available oxygen; and as soon as possible, medical attention.

In accordance with the State policy of protecting the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of the Filipino youth, we must ensure that our students are not susceptible to this toxic gas, especially in places of learning. As such, this bill requires the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all school buildings where there is a substantial risk of exposure to the gas.

Furthermore, this bill will allow authorities to detect CO levels in schools which are also used mostly as evacuation areas in times of calamities, thereby promoting safety of other users of school buildings.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



REP. PM VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 “*Carbon Monoxide Detectors in School Buildings Act.*”

SECTION 2. Installation of Carbon Monoxide Detectors. – The Secretary of Education shall adopt regulations requiring the installation of Carbon Monoxide detectors in every elementary and secondary school building where there is a substantial risk of exposure to carbon monoxide. In the determination of which school buildings have substantial risk exposure to carbon monoxide, the Department of Education shall be assisted by the Department of Health and the Local Government Unit where the particular school building is located.

SECTION 3. Appropriations. – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous operation of this program shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Education (DepEd).

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof Inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repeated, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause* - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days to following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation,

Approved,