

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 2674



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

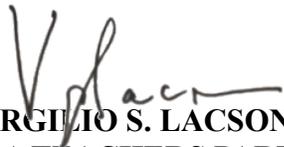
Schools all over the Philippines have been closed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Up to date, we are still implementing mixed synchronous and asynchronous learning methods across all school levels. While basic education enrollment for 2021-2022 is at 100.3% compared to the previous school year (as of 15 September 2021), an estimated 27 million students in the Philippines have lost more than a year of in-person learning.

Now that the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, there is a need to prepare for the forthcoming re-opening of schools for face-to-face learning. For this reason, it is incumbent upon this Legislative body to ensure that our public schools are ready to accept the number of returning students for basic and secondary education.

In a report¹ dated 22 May 2020, it was reported that only 28 percent or about 13,081 schools of 47,013 public schools in the country have clinics. Admittedly, there is a shortcoming on the part of the government to provide holistic care to the youth, by failing to establish school clinics for young students, especially those in far-flung areas.

Public schools contribute toward the promotion and protection of the health of a large number of Filipinos, especially the youth. For this reason, the government needs to strengthen the roles that these institutional units can play in the health care of the population, through its policies on school health and student health services.

This bill proposes to establish permanent clinics in all public schools, regardless of the number of enrollments. For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


VIRGILIO S. LACSON
MANILA TEACHERS PARTY-LIST

¹ <https://mb.com.ph/2020/05/22/deped-bats-for-permanent-clinics-in-all-public-schools/>

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AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT CLINIC FOR EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Mandatory School Clinic Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Pursuant to this policy, laws were enacted to establish health services in both public and private schools, including having medicines and medical supplies for emergency care and employing the services of health professionals, such as doctors, nurses, dentists and trained medical officers. In line with the policy to protect the right to health and to render more operational the goal of the government to provide health services in schools, the State shall make it mandatory for every public and private school to have one permanent clinic.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Clinics.* - Each public school shall be required to establish a permanent clinic inside its school campus. Within one-hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education shall come up with its implementing rules, specifications, criteria and details for the mandatory establishment of clinics in schools.

SECTION 4. *On-the-spot inspection and monitoring of public schools.* - Each provincial or city officer of the DEPED shall create a monitoring team whose main purpose is to conduct



on-spot inspection or monitoring of schools within its area of responsibility to determine if the clinics established are in accordance with the required guidelines, policies and criteria.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Placer", located in the bottom right corner of the page.