

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2681



Introduced by Representative Hon. Christopher “Toff” V.P. de Venecia

**AN ACT REGULATING THE LEARNER CLASS SIZE IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY,
JUNIOR HIGH, AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, classrooms in the Philippines are among the most crowded in Asia, with some classrooms reaching 1 teacher per 77 students. This is due to the rapid growth of the number of students, while there is a shortage of teachers in public schools.

Multiple studies have shown that overcrowded classrooms are not conducive for learning as it makes it difficult for learners to concentrate, and at the same time, it spreads the teachers out too thin. These oversized classrooms violate the student’s constitutional right to quality education. Further, it also violates the teachers’ rights to a just and humane working environment. Given the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is physically unsafe to force classrooms to be highly congested.

Thus, there must be institutional mechanisms to regulate the teacher student ratio in public primary schools, in order to foster an environment that will allow our students to maximize learning, and to allow our teachers to effectively carry out their teaching work.

Thus, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. CHRISTOPHER “TOFF” V.P. DE VENECIA
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “Public School Class Size Law”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education. It is likewise declared that the State shall provide just compensation and humane working conditions for public school teachers.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* — This law shall apply to all public schools under the Department of Education, and all classroom teachers therein, regardless of whether they are paid by the national or local government.

SEC. 4. *Standard Class Size.* — Each class to be handled by a single teacher shall have a standard size of 35 students for elementary, junior high school and senior high school. For purposes of this Act, any class with not more than 35 students shall be considered a standard class.

SEC. 5. *Large Class Size.* — Any class exceeding 35 students up to a maximum of 50 students shall be considered a large class. In no case shall a class size in excess of 50 students be permitted.

SEC. 6. *Large Class Honorarium.* — A teacher handling a large class shall be entitled to a large class honorarium equivalent to one percent (1.0%) of her daily rate for every student in excess of the standard class size of 35.

This formula shall apply to all classes assigned to the teacher during the school year.

SEC. 7. *Transition Period.* — Schools shall be given three (3) school years to adjust their class structures to fit the standard class size in order to meet the ideal ratio. Mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, additional hiring of teachers or splitting of current classes. However, schools may not resort to summary dismissal of students in order to meet the standard class size.

SEC. 8. *Reportorial Requirement.* — The Department of Education shall be required to file a report annually to the Congress, through the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Senate Committee with its terms and compliance of this Act on or before April 30 of each year.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Department of Education shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act within a period of thirty (30) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* — The amount of One Billion Pesos (P 1,000,000,000) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the appropriations for the Department of Education in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* — If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional, all other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,