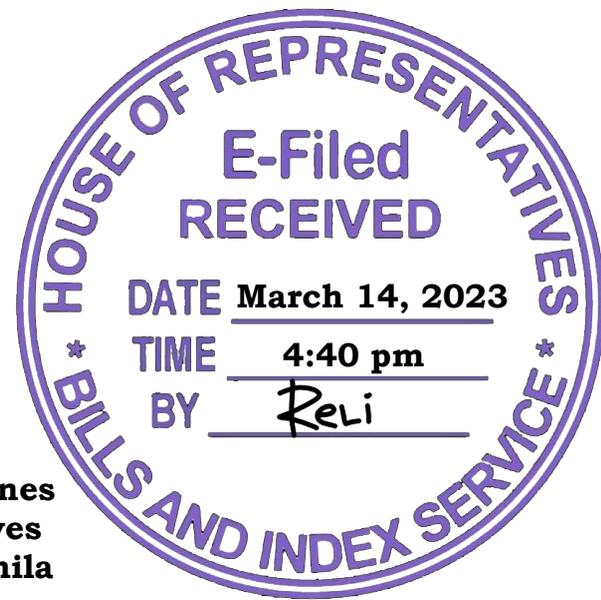




**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 7593



Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize an Essential Health Care Program (EHCP) for public schools to improve the health of children from ages six to twelve. The salient features of this bill are:

- The Essential Health Care Program (EHCP) shall include provisions for soap, toothpaste with fluoride, and medicine for deworming.
- The Role of the School Division Superintendent who supervises schools under their jurisdiction shall issue the necessary memorandum for all school principals under the division to implement the EHCP, oversee the overall implementation of the EHCP and ensure monitoring of the program in all schools under the division, ensure the distribution of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deworming medicines.
- The Roles of the School Principals, School Health Personnel, and Teachers who shall implement the EHCP in public schools for daily handwashing and toothbrushing, and bi-annual deworming.
- The Roles of Parents, who shall participate in the continued implementation of the programs through monitoring activities and signifying consent for the participation of their children in the EHCP.

Hence, the passage of this measure is sought.


RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I



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

**Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 7593

Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

AN ACT

**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Essential Health
2 Care Program Act.”
3

4 SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect
5 and promote the right to health of the people and adopt an integrated and
6 comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make
7 essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people. The
8 State also recognizes the interrelationship of education and health. The health
9 of school children highly influences their academic absorption and performance.
10 Toward this end, the State shall institutionalize a health program that will
11 improve the health of the school children to enable them to develop their full
12 potential towards becoming the country’s future leaders and to address the high
13 incidence of drop outs and poor school performances due to health problems.
14

15 SEC. 3. Essential Health Care Program. – The Department of Education, in
16 coordination with the Department of Health, shall implement an Essential
17 Health Care Program (EHCP) in all public schools to improve the health of the
18 children. Under this program, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste with fluoride and
19 deworming medicines shall be provided for the conduct of daily handwashing,
20 daily tooth brushing and bi-annual deworming of school children from age six to
21 twelve.
22

23 SEC. 4. Role of the School Division Superintendent. – The school division
24 superintendent who supervises a number of schools in their respective
25 jurisdiction shall:

- 1 a. Issue a memorandum for all school principals under the division to
2 implement the EHCP;
- 3
- 4 b. Oversee the overall implementation of the EHCP and ensure monitoring of
5 the program in all schools under the division at least once a year;
- 6
- 7 c. Ensure the distribution of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and deworming
8 medicines according to the distribution system of the Department of
9 Education;
- 10
- 11 d. Include in the performance ranking system for teachers and principals the
12 compliance with school health programs like the EHCP; and
- 13
- 14 e. Promote the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA) by using the
15 EHCP as the focal point in strengthening its linkage with the local
16 government units (LGUs).
- 17

18 SEC. 5. Role of the School Principal. – The school principal of a public school
19 shall:

- 20
- 21 a. Call for parent-teacher assemblies for the proper information of parents
22 and teachers about the EHCP;
- 23
- 24 b. Ensure that handwashing and tooth brushing are included in the daily
25 activities of each class in the school;
- 26
- 27 c. Instruct all teachers in the school to ensure strict compliance with the
28 EHCP guidelines;
- 29
- 30 d. Link with LGUs and other stakeholders to create and strengthen a
31 supportive environment;
- 32
- 33 e. Ensure availability and proper distribution of soap, toothpaste,
34 toothbrushes and deworming medicines within the school;
- 35
- 36 f. Ensure monitoring and communication of the results of the EHCP
37 implementation to the teachers, parents and the community at least once
38 a year; and
- 39
- 40 g. Recognize the achievements of teachers and school health personnel
41 through performance ranking.
- 42

43 SEC. 6. Role of the School Health Personnel. – To assist the teachers in the
44 implementation of the EHCP, the school health personnel shall:

- 45
- 46 a. Conduct a basic orientation on EHCP for teachers, school administrators,
47 parent-teacher association officials and members and barangay health
48 workers during an assembly called for the purpose;
- 49
- 50 b. Monitor and give feedback to parents, teachers and the principal on the
51 status of implementation of the program at least twice a year;
- 52
- 53 c. Provide teachers and parents with needed information to address
54 questions, concerns and misconceptions on deworming;

- 1
2 d. Provide technical support to teachers and oversee deworming activities in
3 their areas of responsibility; and
4
5 e. Seek the assistance of barangay health workers during the mass
6 deworming activity.
7

8 SEC. 7. Role of Teachers. – The teachers who are directly supervising the school
9 children shall:

- 10
11 a. Ensure the availability of water, the distribution of toothbrush, toothpaste,
12 soap and deworming tablet for the school children;
13
14 b. Supervise the school children during the daily toothbrushing and hand
15 washing especially during critical moments, which are, after using the
16 toilet, before eating and after eating;
17
18 c. Supervise the administration of the deworming medicine;
19
20 d. Organize the regular cleaning of handwashing facilities;
21
22
23 e. Document the activities in a record book and forward the detailed records
24 to the school health personnel for reference and statistical purposes; and
25
26 f. Facilitate participatory lectures with regard to lessons and observations
27 learned during the health interventions.
28

29 SEC. 8. Role of Parents. – Recognizing the natural role of parents in rearing their
30 children, the parents shall continue the EHCP activities at home and shall:

- 31
32 a. Participate in the annual monitoring of the EHCP;
33
34 b. Participate in parent-teacher assemblies to convey issues or concerns to
35 the school health personnel; and
36
37 c. Signify consent for the deworming of their children under the EHCP.
38

39 SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Education
40 shall serve as the central planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring
41 body of the EHCP.
42

43 The Secretary of Education shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Health,
44 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation
45 of the provisions of this Act.
46

47 SEC. 10. Appropriations. – The initial amount of Six hundred million pesos
48 (P600,000,000.00) necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be
49 charged against the current appropriations for the Department of Education and
50 the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the
51 continued implementation of the EHCP shall be included in the annual General
52 Appropriations Act.
53

54 SEC. 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
55 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

1
2 Approved,