

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2401



Introduced by Honorable Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being."

Schools are entrusted with the most vital role of being the chief implement in imparting to students, among others learning the importance of sanitation and health care. In the same breadth, the academic performance of students, including their acquisition of knowledge and skills, are greatly affected by their health conditions.

With the student population rising every year, health and sanitation facilities like toilet have grown inversely proportional and inadequate to the number of students. For instance, toilet to pupil ratio (TPR) for public elementary schools in Metro Manila, which is a disturbing record of 1:114, is away above the ratio of 1:75 prescribed under Republic Act No. 6541 or the National Building Code of the Philippines, and is in stark contrast to the international TPR posted at 1:25 for girls and 1:30 for boys.

In cognizance of the government's primordial duty as *parens patriae* to prioritize the need of our children, and make essential goods, health and other social services available to them, and to somehow temper the widening TPR in public elementary schools, this bill seeks to provide for the construction of at least one toilet for every five classrooms in all public elementary schools in the Fourth District of Leyte.

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


LUCY MARIE TORRES-GOMEZ

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I

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE TOILET FOR EVERY FIVE
CLASSROOM IN ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE FOURTH
DISTRICT OF LEYTE

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

SECTION 1. There shall be constructed under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways, one toilet for every five classrooms in all public elementary schools in the Fourth District of Leyte.

SECTION 2. The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriation of the Department of Public Works and Highways. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its operation and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. L. S.", is written below the word "Approved,".