

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4233



Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

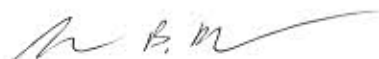
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the establishment of mandatory play areas in every public elementary school in the country.

The importance of play to young children's healthy development and learning has been documented beyond question by research. Our kids in the kindergarten as well as in the early grades of our basic educational system need a balance of child-initiated play in the presence of engaged teachers and more focused experiential learning guided by teachers. Yet, playing activities as well as venues for them are rapidly disappearing from kindergarten and early education as a whole.

In the Philippines, most public elementary schools have no space for a play area.

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


Atty. SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.
Representative
1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4233

Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
MANDATORY PLAY AREAS FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN IN ALL
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “ Playground for Schoolchildren in Public Schools Act of 2016”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to recognize the vital role of the youth in nation-building and to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*- As used in this Act, the term:

- (a) “Municipal School Board” as defined under Republic Act 7160 is composed of the municipal mayor and the district supervisor of schools as co-chairmen; the chairman of the education committee of the Sangguniang bayan, the municipal treasurer, the representative of the pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang kabataan in

the Sangguniang bayan, the duly elected president of the municipal federation of parents-teachers associations, the duly elected representative of the teachers' organizations in the municipality, and the duly elected representative of the non-academic personnel of public schools in the city, as members;

- (b) "Play area" refers to an outdoor space with specific design and safe facilities which shall be used as playing areas for children in every public elementary school in the country.

SECTION 4. *Establishment of a Play Area.*—A play area with safe facilities and fixed gaming equipments such as but not limited to slides, swings, monkey bars, or the like, shall be established in every public elementary school. The play area, as much as possible, shall be in a safe outdoor area inside the premises of the elementary school with natural landscape elements.

SECTION 5. *Implementation.* - The Department of Education, in coordination with the various Local School Boards of each municipality in the country, are hereby tasked to formulate the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. *Funding.* - The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 8. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees or rules inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 9. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,