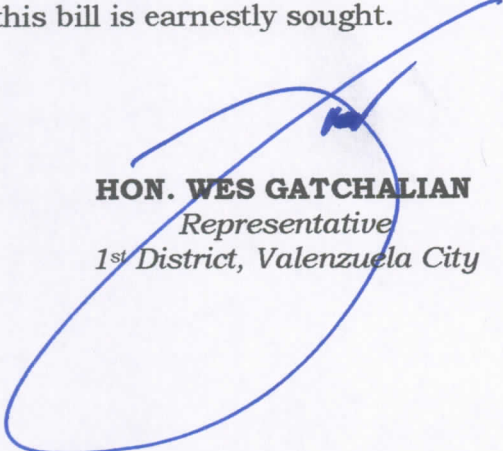


1.2 Billion learners across the globe and at least 28,451,212 primary, secondary, and tertiary learners in the country have been negatively affected because of these measures. But after more than two (2) months of being under Enhanced Community Quarantine measures, the transmission of the virus is not showing any sign of slowing down. The situation is making students, their parents, and even teachers and school administrators anxious to open the new school year, which, according to Republic Act No. 7797 or “An Act to Lengthen the School Calendar from Two Hundred (200) Days to Not More Than Two Hundred Twenty (220) Class Days,” must begin on the first Monday of June but not later than the last day of August.

Before the school year begins, we must ensure that the school premises and other places frequented by students is safe and virus-free. However, the uncertainty of the spread of the virus is threatening the opening of the school year.

With this bill, a remedial measure that seeks to amend Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7797, the President, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Education, will be given the flexibility to adjust the start of the date of the school year in the event of a declaration of a state of emergency, state of calamity, or similar occurrence, which includes this COVID-19 Pandemic. This means that before we open our schools to a very vulnerable sector we can ensure that they are safe; because while the education of our youth is very important, their health is equally vital.

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



HON. WES GATCHALIAN
Representative
1st District, Valenzuela City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6807

Introduced by Representative Wes Gatchalian

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7797, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
“AN ACT TO LENGTHEN THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FROM TWO HUNDRED
(200) DAYS TO NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED TWENTY (220) CLASS DAYS”

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7797, otherwise known as “An Act
2 to Lengthen the School Calendar from Two Hundred (200) Days to Not More Than
3 Two Hundred Twenty (220) Class Days,” is hereby amended to read as follows:
4

5 “SEC. 3 Start of the School Year. – The school year shall start on the first
6 Monday of June but not later than the last day of August, PROVIDED THAT,
7 IN THE EVENT OF A DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY, STATE
8 OF CALAMITY OR SIMILAR OCCURRENCE, THE PRESIDENT, UPON THE
9 RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, MAY SET UP
10 A DIFFERENT DATE FOR THE START OF THE SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY
11 OR PARTS THEREOF.”
12

13 In the implementation of this Act, the Secretary of Education [~~Culture~~
14 ~~and Sports~~] shall determine the end of the regular school year, taking into
15 consideration the Christmas and summer vacations, and the peculiar
16 circumstances of each region.
17

18 In the exercise of this authority, the Secretary of Education [~~Culture and~~
19 ~~Sports~~] may authorize the holding of Saturday classes for elementary and
20 secondary levels for public and private schools.
21

1 SEC. 2. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within thirty (30) days after
2 the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, in consultation with relevant
3 stakeholders, shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations
4 for its effective implementation.

5
6 SEC. 3. **Separability Clause.** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be
7 held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof which are not
8 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

9
10 SEC. 4. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
11 orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent
12 with, or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, amended, or
13 repealed accordingly.

14
15 SEC. 5. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its
16 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

17
18 Approved,