

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4989

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Introduced by Representative **TYRONE D. AGABAS**  
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**AN ACT**  
**REGULATING CLASS SIZE IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to regulate class size in all public schools in accordance with reasonable class size standards fitting and appropriate to public school teachers.

The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all (Section 1, Article XIV, 1987 Constitution). The state shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment (Section 5[5], Article XIV, 1987 Constitution). To this end, the State shall enact measures that shall advance the economic welfare of our teaching personnel.

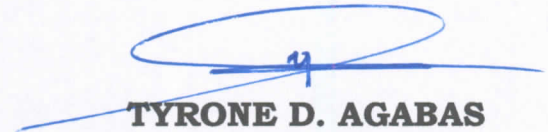
Across the country, public school teachers are burdened by grossly oversized classes. This has effectively contributed to the decline in the quality of education. Regardless of our teachers' personal capacity to teach, oversized classes naturally zap their mental and physical strength. Notwithstanding this flaw, our public school teachers continue to perform their function, albeit underpaid, all in the interest of public service. To some, it has led to serious illnesses which has compromised not only their personal health but their families as well. Worse, no corresponding increase in their salaries were given except for the simple and sheer notion



of knowing that they have contributed largely to the betterment of their students and the country as a whole.

The State mandates the protection of our teachers. They deserve no less.

Hence, this earnest request for the immediate passage of this bill.



**TYRONE D. AGABAS**  
Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan

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

1     **SECTION. 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as "The Public  
2     School Class Size Law."

3     **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the  
4     State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality  
5     education at all levels. It is likewise declared that the State  
6     shall provide just compensation and humane working  
7     conditions for public school teachers.

8             Oversized classes in the country's public schools  
9     adversely effect the learning experience provided to Filipino  
10    schoolchildren. To ensure access to quality education, it is  
11    necessary to establish standards for class size.

12            For their part, teachers are entitled to protection from  
13    unregulated increases in class size as well as to  
14    compensation commensurate to their actual workload.



15       **SECTION 3. Coverage.** This Act shall apply to all classes in  
16       all public schools of the Department of Education, and to all  
17       classroom teachers therein, whether paid by the national or  
18       local government.

19       **SECTION 4. Standard Class Size.** Each class to be handled  
20       by a single teacher shall have a standard size of 35 students.  
21       For purposes of this Act, any class with no more than 35  
22       students shall be considered a standard class.

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

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

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

33       **SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulation.** The  
34       Department of Education shall promulgate the rules and  
35       regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act  
36       within a period of sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

37       **SECTION 8. Appropriations.** The amount of Five Billion  
38       Pesos (P5,000,000,000) is hereby appropriated for the initial  
39       implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be  
40       necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall

41 be included in the appropriations for the Department of  
42 Education in the annual General Appropriations Act.

43 **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this  
44 Act is held unconstitutional, all other provisions not effected  
45 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

46 **SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws. Decrees, rules  
47 and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with this  
48 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

49 **SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen  
50 (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or one (1)  
51 newspaper of general circulation.

52 Approved,