

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4300



Introduced by Rep. Julieta R. Cortuna

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The overarching intent of this urgent measure is one of getting people aware, educated, prepared, and more importantly, trained in saving their own lives or limbs in times of unforeseen natural disasters or hazards. Some examples of these disasters are earthquakes, floods, typhoons, fires, tsunamis, tornadoes or other such hazards that could be of consequential magnitude as to inflict deaths or injuries and damages to properties.

Preparation is, after all, better than reaction. This approach means the mandatory inclusion in the curriculum of the entire Philippine educational system, both private and public, that puts in capsule form the relevant shared observations that result when such a natural disaster strikes.

Along this line, the theoretical side of a relevant subject or course in disaster risk management as contemplated in this proposed bill shall precisely contain modules for practical drills or simulations in case, for example, of tsunami when people are around beaches or coastal areas. For another, there shall be training modules that will educate school children or students on certain "dos and don'ts" during an earthquake like avoiding use of elevators or keeping oneself safe beside a strong support like tables, or away certain types of high-rise buildings.

The one important assumption of this additional subject or course is that CHED and DepEd will provide useful reading material akin to a 'Manual of Instruction' on what a better informed individual should do or avoid during the unforeseen occurrence of natural disasters the most common of which are floods caused by heavy rains. In other words, it is important not just to be aware of flood-prone areas but to carry a 'survival kit' or an acquired competency or trained experience on what to do during prolonged floods.

In this proposed bill, the author contemplates a wide range of natural disasters or hazards that could strike or otherwise claim several lives. Thus, when certain "dos and don'ts" are actually taught in schools or universities, it makes our youth better prepared to deal with the threats to life and limb by said disasters or similar hazards of consequential nature.

It makes sense to save lives when earthquakes do occur and such similar occurrences that take their toll on hundreds of lives such as in the case of Typhoons *Ondoy* and *Yolanda*. The competency and manual know-how that a young child or student could acquire from a curricular subject or course could be applied at home and passed on to other members of the household for their own protection and safety.

For unless any prospective victim of disaster possesses such acquired knowledge in disaster mitigation coupled with simulation models or drills on how to go about disasters or hazards, there will be more victims than we can imagine when the inevitable natural disasters do confront us.

Thus, it is the aim of this bill to integrate into the curriculum in the elementary, high school and university level a well-rounded knowledge in order to better promote work in disaster mitigation, risk management, impact reduction and hazards defense.

Every youth and student should be able to appreciate acquired theoretical knowledge and practical application of certain options, course of action, techniques and minimum competency in dealing with the dangers or threats of floods, typhoons, fires, tsunamis, tornadoes, earthquakes or other similar natural disaster.

In this regard, it then become incumbent upon CHED and DepEd to include mandatory subject or course on this "Disaster Risk Management" and the same should more extensively cover certain commonalities or modalities in dealing with such natural hazards and disasters.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is strongly sought.


JULIETA R. CORTUNA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4300

Introduced by Rep. Julieta R. Cortuna

AN ACT

INTEGRATING INTO THE CURRICULUM IN ALL LEVELS OF THE PHILIPPINE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, A MANDATORY SUBJECT OR COURSE ON DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION, BOTH THEORETICAL AND WITH PRACTICAL COMPONENT AS AN EFFECTIVE PROACTIVE RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS, CALAMITIES, AND HAZARDS LIKE FLOODS, TYPHOONS, FIRES, TSUNAMIS, EARTHQUAKES, AND STRONG WINDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled`

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Disaster Risk Management Education Act of 2016."

SEC. 2. The Commission on Higher Education on the part of the collegiate curriculum and the Department of Education on the part of the high school and elementary curricula shall prescribe a mandatory subject or course in Disaster Risk Management Education for students and school children.

SEC. 3. Under this Act, the CHED and DepEd shall draft the course or subject and integrate it as mandatory requirement in their respective curricula for college students on the part of CHED and high school students and elementary school children on the part of DepEd and same shall commence within reasonable time upon the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. No additional tuition, charge or fee shall be exacted upon those school children and students required to take this mandatory subject or course but shall be subsidized by the public or private school concerned.

Further, no additional appropriation shall be allocated separately to implement the provisions of this Act but shall be charged against the current appropriations of CHED and DepEd through cooperative collaboration with all universities or schools concerned.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days upon its publication in the Official Gazette and it at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,