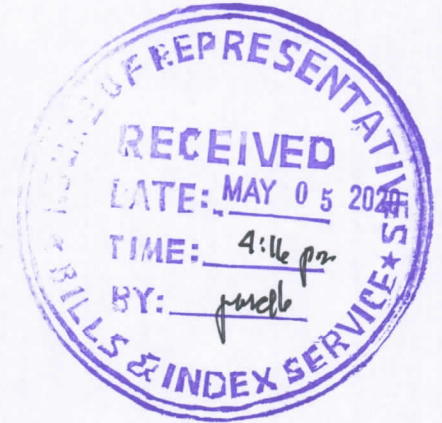


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  
18<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. 6691



---

**Introduced by Representative EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Before the outbreak of the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID 19), the country's education system is already beset with various issues. The COVID 19 pandemic has made matter worse as it altogether compelled the government to order the closure of schools. With no vaccine in sight, the extension of the closure is an eventuality. A World Bank report<sup>1</sup> noted that "[e]xtended school closures may cause not only loss of learning in the short-term, but also further loss in human capital and diminished economic opportunities in the long-term."

The 1987 Constitution provides that the "[t]he 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." <sup>2</sup> And for this purpose the State shall "[e]stablish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society."<sup>3</sup>

The disruption of the education system brought about by this pandemic requires a hybrid but viable system of education. As mandated by the constitution, the State must ensure that its citizens, especially the children and the youth, have continued access to not only basic but also quality education even in times of public health emergencies.

Thus this Bills seeks not only to ensure that the students and learners have continuous access to quality education in a way that is safe and equitable but also to strengthen national response and preparedness , especially of the education sector, during public health emergencies.

---

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank Education Global Practice Guidance Note: Remote Learning & COVID-19 (updated April 7, 2020)

<sup>2</sup> Section 1 Article XIV, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

<sup>3</sup> Section 2 (1) Article XIV, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

As mentioned, human capital is the primary force that drives national development. Consequently, necessary measures to safeguard the people's health and education must be undertaken for the country to survive and thrive.

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

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  
18<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6691

---

Introduced by Representative EVELINA G. ESCUDERO

---

AN ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING BLENDED LEARNING IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
SCHOOLS DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

**Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known and cited as the “*Public Health Emergency Blended Learning Act of 2020.*”

**Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared as a policy of the State, consistent with the constitutional provisions on education and national development to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education even in times of public health emergencies.

As such, quality education must be available to the students and learners through means that protect the health of the learners and at the same time are accessible, multi-modal, and equitable.

**Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.**

- a.) “Public health emergency” is as an occurrence or imminent threat of an illness or health condition, caused by bio terrorism, epidemic or pandemic disease, or (a) novel and highly fatal infectious agent or biological toxin, that poses a substantial risk of a significant number of human facilities or incidents or permanent or long-term disability.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> WHO/D, 2001



- b.) "Pandemic" is "an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people."<sup>5</sup>
- c.) "Blended learning" designates the range of learning possibilities in an education program in which content and instruction are presented by combining internet, digital media, television or radio broadcast with established classroom forms that require the physical co-presence of teacher and students.<sup>6</sup>

**Sec. 4. *Use of Blended Learning in All Institutions of Learning Public and Private Schools During Public Health Emergency.*** - All institutions of learning, including but not limited to, schools, colleges, universities, vocational learning institutions, shall adopt a suitable Blended Learning, as herein defined, during a declared public health emergency to ensure the safety and the continued access to quality education of the students and learners.

**Sec. 5. *Blended Learning Program Development.*** The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall initiate the development of appropriate Blended Learning program within their jurisdiction taking into consideration the resources available to the schools, teachers and students.

**Sec. 6. *Teacher Training.*** DepEd and CHED shall ensure the training of teachers, public and private, in the development and delivery of content and instruction under the Blended Learning program.

**Sec. 7. *Subsidized Data Rates for Access of Blended Learning Materials Published Online.*** During the period of the declared public health emergency, access to websites where the Blended Learning materials are published or posted shall be subsidized by the government and may be accessed free of charge.

**Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - DepEd and CHED, in coordination with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall promulgate the corresponding implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from the date of its effectivity.

---

<sup>5</sup> Last JM, editor. *A dictionary of epidemiology*, 4th edition. New York: Oxford University Press; 2001.

<sup>6</sup> Integrated from Norm Friesen, Report: Defining Blended Learning, August 2012 and Heather Clayton Staker and Michael B. Horn, *Classifying K-12 Blended Learning*, Innosight Institute, Inc, May 2012

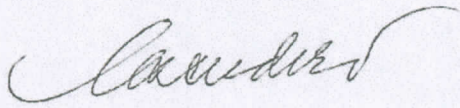
**Sec. 9. Appropriations.** – The funds necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the respective budgets of the CHED and the DepEd in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Sec. 11. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

**Sect. 12. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

*Approved,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lauder", is written over a faint rectangular stamp.