

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 902



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE POSSIBLE DEFERMENT OF THE OPENING OF SCHOOL YEAR 2020-2021 IN ALL PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OFFERING BASIC EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REPEALING SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7797 DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 PANDEMIC IN THE PHILIPPINES

1 **WHEREAS**, Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides
2 that, "[T]he State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality
3 education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education
4 accessible to all";

5
6 **WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in China
7 received a report that a pneumonia of unknown cause, later named as new
8 coronavirus disease (COVID-19), was detected in Wuhan, China on December 31,
9 2019;¹

10
11 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Health reported the first case of COVID-19 in
12 the Philippines on 30 January 2020;²

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the country's first local transmission was confirmed on March 7,
15 2020;³

¹ World Health Organization. "Rolling updates on coronavirus disease (COVID-19)". Information retrieved from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen> on May 23, 2020.

² World Health Organization. "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the Philippines". Information retrieved from <https://www.who.int/philippines/emergencies/covid-19-in-the-philippines> on May 23, 2020.

³ *Ibid.*

1 **WHEREAS**, on March 8, 2020, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Proclamation
2 No. 922, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the country;
3

4 **WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, WHO classified the COVID-19 as a pandemic
5 due to the fast transmission of the virus and severity of the spread, sweeping almost
6 all of the countries worldwide;⁴
7

8 **WHEREAS**, as a result, many local government units ordered suspension of
9 classes even before community quarantines were imposed;
10

11 **WHEREAS**, as community quarantines remain in various parts of the country,
12 many schools were forced to prohibit physical classes and other activities, and ended
13 the school year earlier than usual;
14

15 **WHEREAS**, although children and teenagers have stronger immunities than
16 adults, they are still susceptible to contracting the COVID-19 and transmitting it to
17 other more vulnerable age groups;
18

19 **WHEREAS**, according to the recent COVID-19 situation report of the WHO
20 Philippines, there are already 673 confirmed cases of COVID-19 for age group <19
21 from January 18, 2020 to May 13, 2020;⁵
22

23 **WHEREAS**, in compliance with Republic Act No. 7797, the Secretary of
24 Education has issued DepEd Order No. 007, s. 2020, which scheduled the opening of
25 School Year 2020-2021 on August 24, 2020;
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Education has assured that it has enough time
28 to undertake the necessary preparations in what will be an extraordinary challenging
29 school year;⁶
30

31 **WHEREAS**, however, proceeding with the opening of the school year may put
32 our children to greater health risks especially considering the absence of a vaccine,
33 the continuing rise of COVID-19 cases and the limited testing capacity of the
34 government;

⁴ World Health Organization. "WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19". Information retrieved from <https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020> on May 23, 2020.

⁵ World Health Organization. "Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Situation Report 31 Philippines 13 May 2020". Information retrieved from https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/wpro---documents/countries/philippines/emergencies/covid-19/who-phl-sitrep-31-covid-19-13may2020.pdf?sfvrsn=a009091_2 on May 23, 2020.

⁶ DepEd Order No. 007, s. 2020.

1
2 **WHEREAS**, further, according to the head of the University of the Philippines
3 Resilience Institute, Professor Mahar Lagmay, there are studies showing that the 0-
4 19 age group, which majority are students, have the highest physical interaction
5 accounting for 56 percent;⁷
6

7 **WHEREAS**, models also show that further suspension of classes until
8 December 2020 would contribute in the slowdown of transmission of COVID-19;⁸

9 **WHEREAS**, the House of Representatives recognizes the vulnerability of
10 children in any health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and its
11 obligation to ensure the health and well-being of all its citizens: Now, therefore, be it
12

13 **RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**, as it is hereby
14 resolved, to direct the Committee on Basic Education and Culture to conduct an
15 inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the possible deferment of the opening of School
16 Year 2020-2021 in all public educational institutions offering basic education in the
17 country, with the end in view of repealing Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7797 due to
18 the impact of the COVID-2019 pandemic in the Philippines.

Adopted,



MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

Representative

Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

⁷ Merez, Arianne (April 21, 2020). "Class suspension until December can greatly help slow COVID-19 spread, says analyst." Information retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/21/20/class-suspension-until-december-can-greatly-help-slow-covid-19-spread-says-analyst> on May 23, 2020.

⁸ *Ibid.*