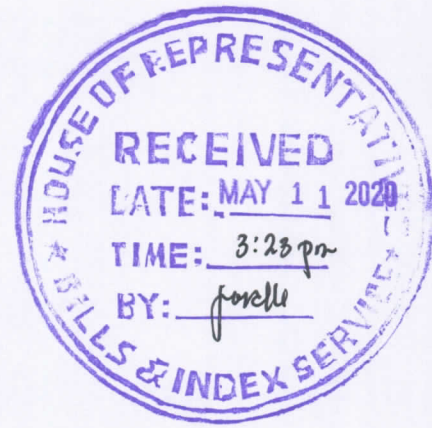




Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 6713**



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**Introduced by Rep. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma**  
**Lone District of Nueva Vizcaya**

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND**  
**MANAGEMENT SUBJECT IN THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

A disaster is a serious disruption occurring over a short or long period of time that causes widespread human, material, economic or environmental loss which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Ordinarily, disasters are classified into natural or human-made. However, a certain disaster may lead to a secondary disaster that increases its devastating impact on lives and property – a common example of which is when a strong earthquake causes tsunami.

Disasters strike everywhere, every season, and on different scales throughout the year. They affect millions of people each year on a personal, business, local community or national level. By their very nature, these events are often unexpected, leaving people with hardly sufficient time to prepare. When any disaster strikes, the situation has the potential to create chaos and confusion, not to mention the countless lives and property it claims.

Studies show that the Philippines is one of the country's most vulnerable to disaster risks and natural hazards. Hence, when a disaster strikes, its effects extend to a wide portion of the population. In these circumstances, not only adults will be affected. Special challenges may likewise confront children during such periods of emergency and since they practically lack the necessary knowledge to address the current situation, they are often left at the mercy of strangers.

It is therefore important to educate the youth in disaster preparation and management well in advance of an emergency situation. In doing so, they will be better equipped to respond appropriately and calmly when confronted with an actual event.

Fully cognizant to the fact that mitigating the potential impacts of disasters, preventing hazards and small emergencies from becoming disasters and being prepared for disasters will substantially reduce loss of life and property, and that losses caused by a disaster can be substantially reduced if the people are well prepared and equipped with the knowledge and capacities for effective disaster management, this Bill aims to integrate the subject of Disaster Preparation and Management in the existing Junior High School Curriculum so that even during their early age, the youth shall already possess the requisite knowledge and skill that could alleviate some of the chaos wrought by the unexpected crisis.

It is for these reasons that the urgent passage of the bill is recommended.

  
LUISA LLOREN CUARESMA





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

**Section 1. Declaration of Policy.** – The State recognizes its responsibility to enable the youth to fulfill their vital role in nation-building, to utilize young people's potentials as agents of change, and to recognize their capability to contribute ideas and actions in times of disaster.

**Section 2. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- a. *Disaster* – a sudden or unexpected event that causes great damage to property or loss of life;
- b. *Disaster Preparedness and Management* – shall pertain to measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters;
- c. *Junior High School* – shall refer to Grade 10 of the K-12 Education System.

**Section 3. Institutionalization of Disaster Preparedness and Management Subject in the Junior High School Curriculum.** – It is hereby mandated that the subject Disaster Preparedness and Management be included in the Junior High School Curriculum, which will be taught with a time allotment of one (1) hour a day for five (5) days a week.

**Section 4. *Teaching Qualifications and Preference.*** – Teachers with the necessary background, trainings, skills and education in disaster and risk preparation and management shall enjoy preference in teaching the subject.

**Section 5. *Annual Review and Assessment.*** – To ensure the proper implementation of this Act and to assess the impact on the students' knowledge and skills, the Department of Education shall conduct an annual review and assessment of the integration of the Disaster Preparedness and Management in the Junior High School Curriculum.

**Section 6. *Implementing Agency.*** – The Department of Education shall act as the lead agency in the implementation of this Act.

**Section 7. *Appropriations.*** – The required amount for the initial implementation of this Act shall come from the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be appropriated from the national budget.

**Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with appropriate offices, agencies and stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

**Section 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional and invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 11. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.