


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SENATE  
S. No. 2815

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is said to be vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards, such as typhoons, periodic droughts, earthquakes, and floods. Further, an ongoing conflict in the southern Philippines has displaced hundreds of thousands of people over the last three decades.<sup>1</sup>

According to Citizen's Disaster Response Center (CDRC), the Philippines is ranked second to China in the top ten list of countries most affected by natural disasters in 2009.<sup>2</sup>

There is an immediate need for comprehensive and coordinated emergency preparedness planning support for public schools nationwide. Historically, public schools have:

1. had limited roles in the emergency preparedness planning process administered by other government agencies;
2. not received priority consideration in that process; and
3. had minimal access to funds allocated to emergency preparedness.

The grants made under this bill will enable public schools to take an active role in emergency planning and give them access to the broad range of skills and expertise of the many other government agencies involved in emergency planning and preparedness.<sup>3</sup>

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*ocr*

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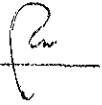
<sup>1</sup>[http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/publications/prep\\_mit/mods/program\\_updates/philippines\\_preparedness.pdf](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/publications/prep_mit/mods/program_updates/philippines_preparedness.pdf).

<sup>2</sup><http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/6333080-the-philippine-needs-a-better-disaster-preparedness-program>.

<sup>3</sup><http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h112-1128>.

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SENATE  
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1 AN ACT

2 AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TO ESTABLISH A  
3 COMPETITIVE PROGRAM TO MAKE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING AND  
4 IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCATED IN AREAS UNDER A  
5 HIGH THREAT OF TERRORIST ATTACKS, NATURAL DISASTERS, OR PUBLIC  
6 HEALTH EMERGENCIES

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

7 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Elementary and Secondary  
8 School Emergency Preparedness Planning Act.”

9 SECTION 2. *Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Preparedness Planning*  
10 *Grant Program.* –

11 (A) *Establishment.* – The Secretary of National Defense (here called the “Secretary”)  
12 shall establish a competitive program to make grants for emergency preparedness planning and  
13 implementation to local educational agencies and districts located in areas under a high threat of  
14 terrorist attacks, natural disasters, or public health emergencies.

15 (B) *Eligibility.* – The Secretary may only award a grant under this section to a public  
16 school that:

17 (1) is located near a place that is under a high threat of:

18 (a) terrorist attacks, as determined by the Secretary;

19 (b) natural disasters, as determined by the Secretary, in his or her  
20 capacity as chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction  
21 and Management Council; or

22 (c) public health emergencies, as determined by the Secretary, in  
23 consultation with the Secretary of Health; and

1 (2) submits an application at such time, in such form, and with such  
2 information and assurances as the Secretary may require, including  
3 assurances that a public school will use such grant amounts to carry out  
4 the activities authorized under this Act; and a budget and timeline for  
5 carrying out such activities.

6 (C) *Priority.* –

7 (1) *Initial Priority.* – In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall  
8 give priority to public schools located in areas with higher population  
9 densities and that are under a higher threat of terrorist attacks, natural  
10 disasters, or public health emergencies than other local educational  
11 agencies and districts eligible under subsection (B).

12 (2) *Further Priority.* – Among the priority local educational agencies and  
13 districts described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give further  
14 priority to public schools that have in the past demonstrated the ability to  
15 formulate and implement effective emergency preparedness plans.

16 (D) *Grant Amount.* – Amounts awarded under this Act shall not exceed P500,000.00  
17 per public school per fiscal year.

18 SECTION 3. *Use of Funds.* –

19 (A) *Required Use of Funds.* –

20 (1) *In General.* – A public school receiving a grant under this Act shall use  
21 such funds to implement or to formulate and implement an emergency  
22 preparedness plan.

23 (2) *Elements of Plan.* – The plan required shall provide for:

24 (a) the creation in the office of the superintendent or other chief  
25 executive officer of the public school of a School Emergency  
26 Response Center to provide coordination, communication, and  
27 support for school-based emergency preparedness planning and  
28 implementation;

- 1 (b) the creation of a Regional Advisory Council chaired by the  
2 superintendent or other chief executive officer of the public school  
3 and composed of other appropriate representatives from the public  
4 school and from emergency management and law enforcement  
5 agencies, local public health offices, nongovernmental  
6 organizations, and other appropriate stakeholders; and
- 7 (c) the development of a plan specific to each school under the public  
8 school's authority for each type of emergency likely to occur in the  
9 area.

10 (B) *Permitted Use of Funds.* – A public school receiving a grant under this Act may use  
11 any such funds remaining after complying with the requirements under paragraph (A)(1) for any  
12 purpose relating to emergency preparedness planning or implementation.

13 SECTION 4. *Authorization of Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act,  
14 there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year.

15 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared  
16 unconstitutional, any other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

17 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or  
18 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

19 SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
20 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/fldp