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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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AN ACT  
TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE TO ESTABLISH A  
COMPETITIVE PROGRAM TO MAKE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
LOCATED IN AREAS UNDER A HIGH THREAT OF TERRORIST ATTACKS,  
NATURAL DISASTERS, OR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is said to be vulnerable to a variety of natural hazards, such as typhoons, periodic droughts, earthquakes, and floods. In addition to natural hazards, 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 reportedly ranked second to China in the top ten list of countries most affected by natural disasters in 2009.<sup>2</sup>

Thus, 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.

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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>.

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  
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<sup>3</sup> This bill was originally filed in the U.S. House of Representatives by Representatives Richardson, Bass, Wilson, Baca, Sablan, Jackson Lee, Norton, and Filner, during the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session.

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

1 AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (b) natural disasters, as determined by the Secretary, in his capacity  
2 as chairperson of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and  
3 Management Council; or

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

6 (2) submits an application at such time, in such form, and with such  
7 information and assurances as the Secretary may require, including  
8 assurances that a public school will use such grant amounts to carry out  
9 the activities in subsection (e); and a budget and timeline for carrying  
10 out such activities.

11 (C) *Priority.* –

12 (1) Initial Priority. – In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary  
13 shall give priority to public schools located in areas with higher  
14 population densities and that are under a higher threat of terrorist  
15 attacks, natural disasters, or public health emergencies than other local  
16 educational agencies and districts eligible under subsection (b).

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

21 (D) *Grant Amount.* – Amounts awarded under this Act shall not exceed  
22 ₱500,000.00 per public school per fiscal year.

1 SECTION 3. *Use of Funds.* –

2 (A) *Required Use of Funds.* –

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

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

7 (a) the creation in the office of the superintendent or other chief  
8 executive officer of the public school of a School Emergency  
9 Response Center to provide coordination, communication, and  
10 support for school-based emergency preparedness planning and  
11 implementation;

12 (b) the creation of a Regional Advisory Council chaired by the  
13 superintendent or other chief executive officer of the public  
14 school and composed of other appropriate representatives from  
15 the public school and from emergency management and law  
16 enforcement agencies, local public health offices,  
17 nongovernmental organizations, and other appropriate  
18 stakeholders; and

19 (c) the development of a plan specific to each school under the  
20 public school's authority for each type of emergency likely to  
21 occur in the area.

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,

/fldpdec2014