

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUL 15 P12:11

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 1441

Introduced by Senator Franklin M. Drilon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The first three months of the school year, June, July and August, are the peak periods for typhoons in the country. Thus, it has become impractical and unwise to commence the school year during the typhoon season as students, parents and school authorities have to deal with floods, landslides, diseases, lack of transportation, and damaged schoolbuildings. In the urban and metropolitan areas, traffic congestion becomes worse with the onset of the rainy season due to floods and bad road conditions.

Also, in flood-prone areas, schoolbuildings are used as evacuation centers. These facilities can be better put to use if they are not being utilized as classrooms and are ready and properly equipped for such emergency measures during the height of the rainy season.

This bill proposes the revision of the school calendar by transferring the commencement of the school year from June to September. By moving the school opening to September or about 3 months later, the country will avoid inconvenience and needless damage to life and property. In fact, the country can expect to realize untold savings in life and limb, manhours, health costs, and fuel, among others, with such proposal.

Revising the school calendar would benefit not only students, parents and school authorities but also the government and the economy.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FRANKLIN M. DRILON

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AN ACT
REVISING THE SCHOOL CALENDAR, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 24, CHAPTER 9, TITLE VI, BOOK IV OF
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 22, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987"

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

SECTION 1. *School Calendar of Elementary and Secondary Levels.* – Section 24, Chapter 9, Title VI, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 24. *School Year.* – (1) The school year for public and private schools shall consist of not less than forty (40) weeks for the elementary and secondary levels [, and thirty-six (36) weeks for the college level or eighteen (18) weeks a semester].

(2) The opening date shall be fixed by the Secretary, but it shall not be earlier than the first day of [June] SEPTEMBER nor later than the last day of [July] OCTOBER of each year unless prevented by fortuitous events.

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SECTION 2. *School Calendar of Higher Education or Post-Secondary Level.* – The school year for higher education or post-secondary level shall commence on the first week of September and shall continue for thirty-six (36) weeks or eighteen (18) weeks a semester.

SECTION 3. *Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education respectively shall issue and publish the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such sections or parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,