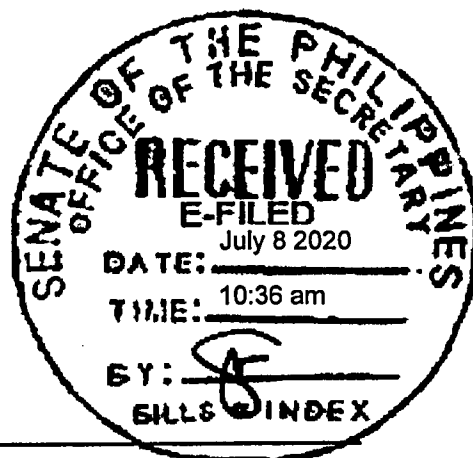


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S. B. No. 1674



Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
MANDATING INCLUSION OF PANDEMICS, EPIDEMICS AND OTHER PUBLIC
HEALTH CRISES AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Throughout history, there have been seventeen¹ pandemics recorded including the current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The first significant flu pandemic recorded was the Russian flu which claimed the lives of 360,000 people in 1890. Almost three decades after, came the Spanish flu (1918) which resulted in the death of 50 million people throughout Europe, United States and parts of Asia.

Pandemics, epidemics and other public health crises although primarily affecting the health and well-being of the population, has other significant far reaching effects to the economy and the delivery of basic services, among others. In our bid to control the spread of COVID-19 – through the imposition of community quarantine, bans on international and local travel, and similar restrictions – has had a negative impact in our economy, with ADB estimating our GDP at -3.8% in 2020.²

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), in March of this year, recommended a COVID-19 curriculum which included suggestions on how teachers can engage students of different ages on preventing and controlling the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. UNICEF stressed that any conversations or activities should always consider the specific needs of children, the guidance provided by the school, local and/or national authorities, and be based on reputable sources such as UNICEF and the World Health Organization.

¹ <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-ages/pandemics-timeline>

² <https://www.adb.org/countries/philippines/economy>

Considering the possible benefits of analyzing pandemics through different fields of study (i.e. science, economics, culture), this bill proposes to include in primary and secondary education, a discussion on pandemics, epidemics and other public health crises, how to cope with its effects and the appropriate preparedness and mitigation strategies to combat the same.

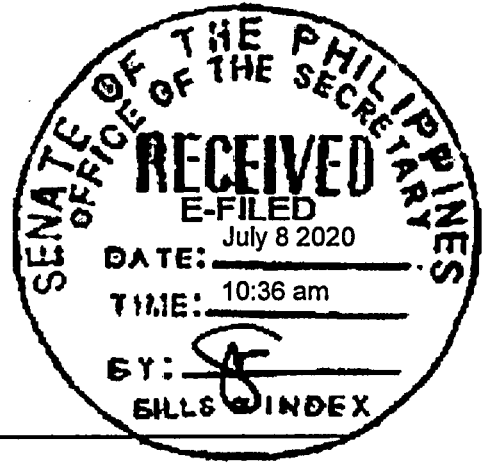
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SONNY ANGARA

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE
S. B. No. 1674



Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
MANDATING INCLUSION OF PANDEMICS, EPIDEMICS AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. *Inclusion of Pandemics Education in the Curriculum.* – Teaching of
2 and discussions on pandemics, epidemics, other public health crises, its effects and
3 preparedness or mitigation strategies is hereby required to be part of the curriculum
4 of all primary and secondary schools in the Philippines.

5 The Department of Education (DepEd) shall consult with the Department of
6 Health, the National Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Council, and other
7 relevant public or private institutions in crafting the age and level-appropriate
8 curriculum for this purpose.

9 SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd shall adopt the
10 necessary rules and regulations to implement the provision of this Act.

11 SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – The funds needed for this purpose shall be taken from
12 the appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such amount
13 necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
14 Appropriations Act.

15 SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
16 orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof

1 which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
2 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

3 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
4 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,