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SENATE  
S. No. 1330

RECEIVED BY: *js*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides:

The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), exposure to pesticides can produce cough, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, headaches, and eye irritation. There is also mounting evidence that long-term pesticide exposure in adults is associated with chronic health effects such as cancer, neurological and reproductive problems. Children may be particularly susceptible to pesticide toxicity because many of their organ systems have not reached developmental maturity.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an alternative pest-control technique that manages and suppresses pests by preventing their access to food, water, and shelter. These strategies can be more cost-efficient than traditional pest control options. Using IPM at schools can reduce pesticide exposures of workers and students. The practice of using IPM in schools must become an established national policy.\*

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*as*

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\* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.



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SENATE  
S. No. 1330

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT  
2 TO PROTECT OUR SCHOOLS FROM PESTICIDES

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

3 SECTION 1. *Definition.* – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall have the  
4 meanings set forth below:

5 A. “Pesticide” shall mean a fungicide used on plants, an insecticide, an herbicide or a  
6 rodenticide, but does not mean a sanitizer, disinfectant, anti-microbial agent, or pesticide bait.

7 B. “School” means both public and private educational institutions.

8 C. “Facilities” mean school buildings, land, and other appurtenances of all public or  
9 private educational institutions.

10 D. “Daycare Facility” shall mean licensed and registered child daycare homes,  
11 programs, and facilities.

12 E. “Integrated Pest Management” and “IPM” means a decision-making process for  
13 pest control that utilizes regular monitoring to determine if and when controls are needed;  
14 employs physical, mechanical, cultural, biological, and educational tactics to control conditions  
15 that promote pest infestations and to keep pest populations at tolerable damage or annoyance  
16 levels; and only as a last resort, utilizes the least toxic pesticide controls. The overall goal of IPM  
17 is to eliminate the unnecessary use of pesticides and reduce the use of all pesticides.

18 SECTION 2. *Integrated Pest Management.* – On the first of June after the effectivity date  
19 of this Act, all schools and daycare facilities shall have Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plans  
20 for all pest control activities. Such plans shall utilize IPM techniques to manage and control pests  
21 and problems. All IPM plans shall include a provision for public access to all information about

1 the implementation of the plan. School districts may create advisory committees to assist in the  
2 development of the IPM plans, and to monitor the implementation of such plans.

3 SECTION 3. *Prohibition on Pesticides.* – By the first of June in the next year succeeding  
4 the effectivity date of this Act, all applications of pesticides made on the grounds of any public  
5 or private school facilities and premises or daycare facilities and premises shall be prohibited.  
6 Such prohibition shall not include any application of pesticides deemed necessary to protect  
7 public health, safety, and welfare, or to protect the building and structural integrity of such  
8 facility. Such necessary application may be made outside of regular business hours provided it is  
9 the least toxic alternative. No child enrolled at such school or daycare facility may enter an area  
10 where pesticides have been applied until it is safe to do so according to the provisions of the  
11 pesticide label.

12 SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* Within sixty (60) days from the  
13 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in cooperation  
14 with the Department of Health, shall issue the rules and regulations necessary to implement the  
15 provisions of this Act, including but not limited to, a model plan, a compliance schedule, and  
16 appropriate penalties for noncompliance. Such rules and regulations shall include, but not be  
17 limited to, standards for technical capability and definitions for “pesticide applications necessary  
18 to protect the public health, safety, and welfare” and “pesticide applications necessary to protect  
19 the building and structural integrity of a facility.”

20 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared  
21 unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby  
22 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

23 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or  
24 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or  
25 modified accordingly.

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

Approved,