

13 OCT 24 13:39

SENATE
S. No. 1892

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
ji

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14 provides:

Section 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Section 2. The State shall:

(1) Establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society;

Class size is one factor to consider when evaluating a school's effectiveness. Education researchers have found that class size reduction in the early grades helps students achieve because there is a greater opportunity for individual interaction between student and teacher in a small class. But the government reduction in public spending on education has resulted to a worsening shortage of teachers and classrooms. Based on data culled from the Department of Education, public schools face a shortage of 46,567 teachers and 32,844 classrooms in school year 2013-2014.

In order to accommodate a growing school-age population, the Department of Education has coped with these shortages by allowing extremely large class sizes. In urban areas, it is no longer uncommon to see teachers handling classes with 60-80 students. According to data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, classrooms in the Philippines are the most crowded in Asia. The country's public elementary school's average class size of 43.9 is far bigger than Malaysia's 31.7, Thailand's

22.9, Japan's 28.6, and India's 40. In public secondary schools, the country registered an average size of 56.1, higher than Malaysia's 34, Thailand's 41.5, Japan's 33.9, and India's 39.

The proliferation of grossly oversized classes is one of the main causes of the marked decline in the quality of education provided by public schools. No matter how competent a teacher may be, the teaching and learning experience is adversely affected when there are too many students in a class. Reducing class size is an appealing and visible way for states and public schools to show that they are improving the quality of education. A smaller class size allows teachers to devote more time to instruction and quality classroom activities. It also paves the way for an increase in student achievement, fewer discipline problems, and improvement in teacher morale and retention.

Therefore, the oversized classes found in public school classrooms today violate the Constitutionally-guaranteed right of Filipino school children to quality education. Oversized classes also violate the right of teachers to just compensation and humane working conditions. In the current system, a teacher handling a class of 70 students is in fact taking on the workload of two teachers, but without receiving any additional compensation. This practice of assigning oversized classes to teachers without extra pay is one of the mechanisms by which they are "overworked, yet underpaid."

This bill seeks to address these concerns by mandating the regulation of class size in public schools and prescribing additional compensation for teachers handling large classes.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed in the House of Representative by Rep. Antonio L. Tinio in the 16th Congress.

SECRETARY
OCT 24 1919

SENATE
S. No. 1892

1919
f

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 REGULATING CLASS SIZE IN ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
3 AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Public School Class Size Law
5 of 2013."

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and
7 promote the right of all citizens to quality education. It is likewise declared the policy of the
8 State to provide just compensation and humane working conditions for public school teachers.

9 Oversized classes in the country's public schools adversely affect the learning experience
10 of Filipino schoolchildren. To ensure access to quality education, it is necessary to establish
11 standards for class size.

12 For their part, teachers are entitled to protection from unregulated increases in class size
13 as well as to compensation commensurate to their actual workload.

14 SECTION 3. *Standard Class Size.* - In all public elementary and secondary schools in
15 the country, each class to be handled by a single teacher shall have a standard size of 35 or less
16 students. For purposes of this Act, any class with not more than 35 students shall be considered
17 a standard class.

1 SECTION 4. *Large Class Size.* - Any class with more than 35 students up to a
2 maximum of 50 students shall be considered a large class. In no case shall a class size in excess
3 of 50 students be permitted.

4 SECTION 5. *Large Class Honorarium.* - A teacher handling a large class shall be
5 entitled to a large class honorarium equivalent to one percent (1.0 %) of her daily rate for every
6 student in excess of the standard class size of 35.

7 SECTION 6. *Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this
8 Act, the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Budget and Management,
9 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

10 SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* - The necessary amount for the initial implementation of
11 this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Education under the current
12 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued
13 implementation shall be included in the appropriations of the Department of Education in the
14 annual General Appropriations Act.

15 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
17 valid and subsisting.

18 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.*- Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
19 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
20 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

21 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,