

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



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SENATE

S. No. 833

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT A LAND USE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR THE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF ITS RESOURCES IN ADDRESSING BASIC EDUCATION FACILITY SHORTAGES

Explanatory Note

A conducive physical learning environment in the classroom and the school will help contribute to the attainment of the goal of quality basic education for all. Thus, a suitable school site should be one that best serves educational activities, enables the optimum utilization of resources, and thus, shall meet the requirements on location, accessibility, topography, soil condition, size, and disaster/risk reduction measures.

This proposed bill addresses the Constitutional mandate of the State to give priority to education in order to accelerate social progress and promote human development by providing for the preparation of an effective land use and development plan that public elementary and secondary schools nationwide will implement to optimize utilization of resources and address the shortages and foresee the needs of the public education sector. Lands owned by educational institutions must not be allowed to remain idle especially when these can be developed into that which can best serve the needs of the students and faculty.

The aim of site development planning for any school is to contribute toward the creation of a proper teaching-learning environment. It shows improvements in the school site including the position of existing and proposed buildings, the arrangement of circulation elements, and the utilization of open areas. It will also aid school officials in making informed decisions regarding educational facilities management. It shall be regarded as a flexible framework which allows modifications dictated by changing situations.

A school site must be easily accessible to the greatest number of pupils it intends to serve. For instance, the Educational Facilities Manual issued by the Department of Education in 2010 prescribes that the maximum distance for a pupil to walk from residence to school is 2 to 3 kilometers, while the maximum time from residence to school on board public transportation is thirty (30) minutes.

However, at certain times, complying with the prescribed standards can be hard to achieve due to the lack of funding for the needed physical resources. The site development plan can thus serve as a "wishlist" for future developments of the school. It can also serve as the initial blueprint in the possible conversion of the public educational institution into an integrated school to substantially address the community's infrastructure needs for both the elementary and secondary levels.

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

/s/

RALPH G. RECTO

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*School Site Development and*
2 *Infrastructure Plan Act of 2016*".

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to ensure optimum utilization
4 of the land resources of all public elementary and secondary schools for the purpose of anticipating
5 the future needs and expansion of schools relative to school population growth and construction
6 of needed infrastructure and physical facility requirements which will contribute to a more
7 conducive teaching-learning environment and comply with disaster risk reduction management in
8 schools.

9 **SEC. 3. Preparation and Implementation.** – The school principals, with the assistance of
10 the Office of the School Division Superintendent and the District/City/Municipal Engineering
11 Office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), shall prepare and implement
12 a land use development and infrastructure plan designed to improve and optimally utilize the
13 resources of their respective public elementary and secondary schools. The land use development
14 and infrastructure plan shall be submitted to the Department of Education (DepEd) within two
15 years after the approval of this Act and shall be updated periodically as the need arises.

16 **SEC. 4. Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan.** – Each public elementary and
17 secondary school shall endeavor to provide both a conducive teaching-learning and recreation area
18 for the students and faculty for the holistic development of the learners. The infrastructure and
19 physical facility requirements must also comply with prevailing disaster risk reduction and
20 mitigation measures.

21 The site development must be flexible enough to allow modifications according to the
22 school's prevailing and future needs: *Provided*, That modifications shall adhere as much as
23 possible to the basic pattern of development.

1 The land use development and infrastructure plan shall include the following:

- 2 a) Detailed geographical description and survey of the site occupied by the
3 educational institution;
- 4 b) Inventory of all existing buildings, facilities, and other infrastructure within the
5 compound or area occupied by the public school;
- 6 c) Recommendations for use of all idle and available land inside the school campus
7 including a feasibility study on the construction of additional classrooms or
8 buildings relative to population growth and estimated increase in student
9 enrolment;
- 10 d) School building and facility condition assessment report which will include actual
11 defects, damages, and other structural issues; replacement, repairs, retrofitting,
12 improvements and maintenance needed;
- 13 e) Design and estimated cost of construction, operation, and maintenance of other
14 infrastructure needs of the educational institution; and
- 15 e. Financial plan, which may include among others, feasibility studies, sources of
16 funding, income, loans, and public-private partnerships.

17 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the approval
18 of this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the DPWH, shall promulgate the rules and regulations
19 necessary to implement this Act.

20 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
21 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be
22 in full force and effect.

23 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
24 *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers in general circulation.

Approved,