

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1506 RECEIVED BY: J

Introduced By SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT
MANDATING THE CONSERVATION OF GABALDON SCHOOL
BUILDINGS NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Explanatory Note

The conservation of heritage buildings is imperative in preserving the cultural memory of the Philippines and maintaining a link to our past. Notable examples are the Gabaldon school buildings: heritage school houses built in the Philippines from 1907 to 1946 that follow a standard design and plan by Architect William E. Parsons. The Gabaldon heritage school buildings were named after the late assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon who authored Republic Act 1801 which appropriated one million pesos for the construction of school buildings in every municipality in the country.

There are reportedly 1,446 Gabaldon heritage school buildings all over the Philippines. These structures symbolize the first foundation of the Philippine public school system during the American period, in which each Filipino child, even from the most remote areas of the country, had access to formal education.

It is about time that the national government give due importance to Gabaldon heritage school buildings as they serve as an important reminder of our country's unique identity, history and rich culture.

For these reasons, immediate passage of the bill is sought.


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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Gabaldon School*
2 *Buildings Conservation Act*”.

3
4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of
5 the State to conserve and promote the country’s historical and cultural heritage
6 and resources. Towards this end, it shall strengthen its efforts in the
7 conservation and restoration of built heritage, such as Gabaldon school
8 buildings, to preserve their architectural, historical, and social significance.

9
10 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

11
12 a. *Conservation* refers to all processes and measures of maintaining the
13 cultural significance of Gabaldon school buildings including preservation,
14 restoration, reconstruction, protection, adaptation or any combination thereof;
15 and

16
17 b. *Gabaldon school buildings* refer to school buildings designed by
18 American Architect William Parsons and funded through Act No. 1801, authored
19 by Assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon.

20

1 **SECTION 4. *Conservation of Gabaldon School Buildings.*** - The
2 Department of Education (DepED), in consultation with the National
3 Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), National Historical Commission
4 of the Philippines (NHCP), and the National Museum (NM), shall implement a
5 program for the identification and conservation of all Gabaldon school buildings
6 nationwide.

7
8 For this purpose, an inventory of all Gabaldon school buildings, whether
9 fully functional or condemned, in all public elementary and secondary schools
10 shall be jointly undertaken by the DepED and the NCCA to determine the
11 physical status of each structure. School heads shall submit to their respective
12 Schools Division Superintendents, for appropriate action, a report indicating the
13 existence of or any structural damage to any Gabaldon school buildings in
14 schools under their respective supervisions.

15
16 Local government units that have Gabaldon school buildings under their
17 jurisdiction shall likewise adopt measures for the protection and conservation of
18 these structures and shall provide the DepED with the necessary assistance in the
19 implementation of any conservation project.

20
21 Any modification, alteration, destruction, demolition, or relocation of
22 Gabaldon school buildings shall be strictly prohibited. In cases where
23 conservation measures are necessary, the DepED, in coordination with the
24 NCCA, NHCP, and the NM, shall provide proper technical assistance to school
25 heads to ensure that the original architectural design of the school building is
26 maintained: *Provided, however,* That, subject to the issuance of a permit from the
27 NCCA, any modification or alteration of the original architectural design of
28 Gabaldon school buildings may be allowed in public elementary and secondary
29 schools where the exigency of constructing new school buildings is a priority in
30 anticipation of the increase in student population by virtue of the
31 implementation of Republic Act No. 10533, or the "Enhanced Basic Education
32 Act of 2013": *Provided, further,* That the facade and other distinct features of the
33 original Gabaldon school buildings shall, as much as possible, be preserved.

1 **SECTION 5. *Penalties.*** - Any person who shall abet or cause the
2 unauthorized modification, alteration, destruction, demolition, or relocation of
3 the Gabaldon school building shall be subject to a fine of not less than two
4 hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment for a term of not less
5 than ten (10) years, or both, upon the discretion of the Court, and shall likewise
6 pay for the conservation of the structure: *Provided, That if the violation is*
7 *committed by a juridical person, its license to operate shall be revoked, and its*
8 *president, manager, representative, director, agent, or employee shall also be*
9 *liable for the penalties prescribed herein: Provided, further, That if the offender is*
10 *an alien, the offender shall be placed under the custody of the Bureau of*
11 *Immigration (BI) for appropriate proceedings and shall be summarily deported*
12 *after serving the applicable sentence.*

13
14 School heads who fail to submit a report to their respective Schools
15 Division Superintendents on the existence of or any structural damage to any
16 Gabaldon school buildings in schools under their respective supervisions, shall
17 be held administratively liable for simple neglect of duty and shall be suspended
18 without pay for a period of six (6) months.

19
20 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** - The Secretary of Education shall
21 immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this
22 Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged to the current year's
23 appropriation of the DepED. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued
24 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
25 Appropriations Act.

26
27 **SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90)
28 days from the approval of this Act, the DepED, in consultation with the NCCA,
29 NHCP, and the NM shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the
30 provisions of this Act.

31
32 **SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is held
33 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in
34 force and effect.

1 **SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders and rules and
2 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed or amended accordingly.

4

5 **SECTION 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
6 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
7 circulation.

8

9 Approved,

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