EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE

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S. No. 439

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

#### AN ACT

REQUIRING MANDATORY DISASTER RELIEF AND RESPONSE INCLUSION IN CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Mandatory Disaster Relief and Response Inclusion in School Curricula Act will provide the Filipino citizens the much needed information to prepare them for disasters that are likely to affect the country.

According to the World Risk Report of 2018, the Philippines is the third most vulnerable country to disasters. Due to the fact that the country lies in the Pacific Ring of Fire, it is prone to tectonic earthquakes. Additionally, about 23 volcanoes are listed active in the country. Furthermore, about 20-25 catastrophic typhoons take place in a year leading to the loss of lives, and millions of damages to infrastructure and livelihood of the Philippines.

Effective disaster preparedness aids in alleviating damages wrought by unexpected occurrences thereof. It is one thing to have a plan and another to effectively dispense this knowledge to the entire nation to lessen the impact of disasters in the country, its infrastructures, assets and resources.

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

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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## AN ACT

# REQUIRING MANDATORY DISASTER RELIEF AND RESPONSE INCLUSION IN 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:

- Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "The Mandatory Disaster Relief and Response Inclusion in School Curricula Act of 2019."
  - Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* The teaching of disaster awareness and mitigation is hereby required to be part of the curriculum of all primary and secondary schools in the Philippines.

It is also the policy of the state to protect the country's physical and social infrastructures, its citizens, and the citizen's livelihood, as well as facilitate the active participation of the youth on the matter.

- Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the term:
- (a) "Mandatory" shall refer to something that is required by law.

<ul><li>(b) "Disaster Relief" shall refer to the provision of essential, appropriate, and timely humanitarian assistance to those affected by a disaster, based on an initial rapid assessment of needs.</li><li>(c) "Disaster Response" shall refer to an aggregate of decisions and measures taken to contain or mitigate the effects of a disastrous event to prevent further loss of life and/or property.</li></ul>
Sec. 4. <i>Implementing Rules and Regulations.</i> – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall adopt the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provision of this Act.
Sec. 5. <i>Appropriations.</i> – The funds needed for the purpose of this Act shall be taken from the appropriations of the Department of Education. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the implementations on this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
Sec. 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,