

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**

19 JUL 16 A11:51

SENATE

Senate Bill No. _____

545



Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**AN ACT
SYNCHRONIZING THE OPENING OF ALL CLASSES IN ALL SCHOOLS
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution affirms the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of every Filipino to quality education at all levels and take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all.

Education is a powerful tool in combating poverty. We must educate our youth with the knowledge of the world. As it is, we have laws that provide access to free education from the elementary to tertiary levels which are envisioned to give better opportunities to Filipinos and improve their economic status. With recent changes in our economic landscape, the country needs to step up to keep up with globalization. In addition to this, the advent of the ASEAN Integration in 2015 has brought so much opportunities in the country especially in the education sector.

This bill aims to harmonize the opening of classes among all schools in the country and synchronize the country's academic or school calendar with the rest of the world. Presently, the Philippines still follows a June to March school calendar while most educational institutions across the world commences school from August to September of each year. Synchronization of our academic calendar will allow our schools, students and faculty members to fully participate and benefit from research activities, exchange programs, and training programs from educational institutions overseas. This will also allow foreign students and faculty members to avail of exchange programs, research and other trainings offered by Philippine educational institutions.

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



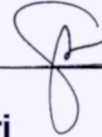
JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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**AN ACT
SYNCHRONIZING THE OPENING OF ALL CLASSES IN ALL SCHOOLS
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Synchronizing the Start of the School Year.*** – Any provisions
2 of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the start of the school year beginning the
3 immediately succeeding school year following the passage of this Act shall be
4 synchronized.

5 The school year shall start on the second Monday of August but not later than the
6 second Monday of September.

7 In the implementation of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education
8 (DepEd) and the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be
9 guided by the provisions of Republic Act No. 7977 insofar as they are not inconsistent
10 with this Act.

11 **SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DepEd and the CHED
12 in coordination with the associations of private schools shall promulgate the
13 corresponding implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from
14 the date of its effectivity.

15 **SEC. 3. *Repealing and Amendatory Clause.*** – Section 3 of Republic Act No.
16 7977 and all other laws, decrees, orders, regulations and policies inconsistent with the
17 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and/or amended accordingly.

18 **SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid
19 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and
20 subsisting.

21 **SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette, 22
23 whichever comes first.

Approved.