

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

7 JUL -4 PM

SENATE
S.B. No. 1131

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for disclosure of fire safety standards and measures with respect to campus buildings of higher learning by calling upon colleges and universities to report information on the level of fire safety on their campuses to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and to the public

This legislation will help parents to identify schools that set a strong emphasis on fire safety. When selecting a school, students and parents must also consider the school's track record when it comes to fire safety. The Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know Act will provide them with the vital information they need to make an informed decision.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
[Signature]

¹ This bill was originally filed in the Thirteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

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1 AN ACT
2 TO PROVIDE FOR DISCLOSURE OF FIRE SAFETY STANDARDS AND MEASURES
3 WITH RESPECT TO CAMPUS BUILDINGS.

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Campus Fire Safety Right-to-
7 Know Act of 2007”.

8 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms as used in this Act shall be
9 defined as follows:

- 10 (1) “Chairman” refers to the Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education;
11 (2) “CHED” refers to Commission on Higher Education.

12 SECTION 3. *Disclosure of Fire Safety of Campus Buildings.* –

13 (1) Fire Safety Reports Required – Each eligible institution participating in any program
14 under this title shall, beginning in academic year 2008-2009, and each year thereafter, prepare,
15 publish, and distribute, through appropriate publications or mailings, to all current students and
16 employees, and to any applicant for enrollment or employment upon request, an annual fire
17 safety report containing at least the following information with respect to the campus fire safety
18 practices and standards of that institution:

- 19 (a) A statement that identifies each student housing facility of the institution, and
20 whether or not that facility is equipped with a fire sprinkler system or other fire safety
21 systems, or both.

1 (b) Statistics concerning the occurrence on campus, during the 2 preceding
2 calendar years for which data are available, of fires and false fire alarms in student
3 housing facilities.

4 (c) For each such occurrence, a statement of the human injuries or deaths and the
5 structural damage caused by the occurrence.

6 (d) Information regarding fire alarms, smoke alarms, the presence of adequate fire
7 escape planning or protocols, rules on portable electrical appliances, smoking and open
8 flames (such as candles), regular mandatory supervised fire drills, and planned and future
9 improvement in fire safety.

10 (2) Rule of Construction – Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the
11 Chairman to require particular policies, procedures, or practices by institutions of higher
12 education with respect to fire safety .

13 (3) Reports – Each institution participating in any program under this title shall make
14 periodic reports to the campus community on fires and false fire alarms that are reported to local
15 fire departments in a manner that will aid the prevention of similar occurrences.

16 (4) Reports to the Chairman -- On an annual basis, each institution participating in any
17 program under this title shall submit to the Secretary a copy of the statistics required to be made
18 available under paragraph (1)(B). The Chairman shall:

19 (a) review such statistics;

20 (b) make copies of the statistics submitted to the Chairman available to the public; and

21 (c) in coordination with representatives of institutions of higher education, identify
22 exemplary fire safety policies, procedures, and practices and disseminate information concerning
23 those policies, procedures, and practices that have proven effective in the reduction of campus
24 fires.

25 SECTION 4. *Report to Congress by the Chairman of CHED.* – Within one (1) year after
26 the effectivity of this Act, the Chairman shall prepare and submit to the Congress a report
27 containing--

1 (1) an analysis of the current status of fire safety systems in college and university
2 facilities, including sprinkler systems;

3 (2) an analysis of the appropriate fire safety standards to apply to these facilities, which
4 the Chairman shall prepare after consultation with such fire safety experts, representatives of
5 institutions of higher education, and other government agencies as the Chairman, considers
6 appropriate;

7 (3) an estimate of the cost of bringing all nonconforming dormitories and other campus
8 buildings up to current new building codes; and

9 (4) recommendations from the Chairman concerning the best means of meeting fire
10 safety standards in all college facilities, including recommendations for methods to fund such
11 cost.

12 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
13 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
14 valid and subsisting.

15 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
16 order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the
17 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

18 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,