

14th Congress of the Republic)
of the Philippines)
First Regular Session)

7 JUL -4 P4:52

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. B. No. 1139

Introduced by Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite our long experience with the wet or rainy season in the Philippines, our country seems to be suffering the same complications of heavy rains year in and out. Although we have always been a tropical country, environmental changes, increasing population, pollution and faulty planning have aggravated the situation. As the academic schoolyear begins in June, monsoon downpours impede the continuation of school in all levels, resulting in loss of school days. Aside from placing undue pressure on parents and students, this loss also places pressure on teachers to finish the required curriculum in a shorter amount of time.

This bill addresses the situation by moving the regular academic schoolyear from June until March the following year, to September until June the following year. It also changes the "summer" school season from April until May to July until August. The bill also prescribes the formation of a special curriculum or set of courses designed specifically to be used on days when classes are suspended for unforeseen reasons.

In this manner, the loss school days due to inclement weather is mitigated, and whatever "lost" days are suffered during the modified school year are put to effective use by students through the special curriculum.

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



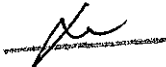
AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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**AN ACT
TO MODIFY THE ACADEMIC SCHOOLYEAR
FROM JUNE UNTIL MARCH TO SEPTEMBER UNTIL JUNE,
PRESCRIBING A SET OF COURSES ADAPTED TO THE RAINY SEASON,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Section 1. The regular academic schoolyear of public and private educational institutions in the primary, secondary and tertiary levels beginning in June and ending in March is hereby modified to commence in September to end in the month of June, *Provided* that, this modification shall not apply to educational institutions following a different academic schoolyear, including, but not limited to those which follow the trimester schoolyear.

Section 2. Where applicable, non-regular classes held during the months of April and May shall now be held in the months of July and August.

Section 3. In preparing the curriculum for the schoolyear, heads of schools and teachers in the primary and secondary level are hereby directed to formulate a set of courses for the rainy season designed to be used on days when classes are suspended due to inclement weather or such other unforeseen circumstances. This set of courses may consist of exercises, reading assignments, projects, or other tasks relevant to the regular curriculum which may be performed by students at home.

Heads of schools and teachers at the tertiary level are encouraged to prescribe a course outline of assigned readings which the student may follow in case of suspended classes.

Section 4. Upon the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for its implementation for the academic schoolyear following its effectivity.

Section 5. All laws, decrees, order, rules and regulation or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

Section 6. This Act shall effect (15) days after its publication in at least (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,