

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



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SENATE
S.B. No. 2366

RECEIVED BY: js

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT ASSIGNING ONE REGISTERED NURSE FOR EVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Delivering quality education isn't just a matter of delivering instructional modules inside the classroom. Quality education, that every *Filipino child deserves*, is holistic in nature. It is concerned with the whole self – physical, mental and spiritual.


With a fifth of the Filipino populace under the poverty line, health-related issues of school children abound, thus hampering their ability to learn and retain lessons and skills. Some students might even be forced to skip school days due to sickness, further impeding their ability to learn.

Thus, this measure proposes that students' access to basic health care services in schools be assured by requiring every public school to employ at least one registered nurse to look after the health and nutritional needs of its students.

Nurses are as important as other support personnel in the school system.¹ They attend to the physical and mental-health needs of students. They can even spearhead programs to promote nutrition and contribute health-related content in the curriculum.

Having a nurse in every school emphasizes the value of health, nutrition and well-being as part of the formation of our Filipino children.


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


Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

¹ Roth, Lauren (September 26, 2011). "A Nurse in Every School? Not in Florida – Not Even Close," Orlando Sentinel. Viewed via http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2011-09-26/business/os-fewer-school-nurses-florida-20110925_1_school-nurses-practical-nurses-students-with-chronic-illnesses last August 18, 2014.

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Nurse in Every Public School
2 Act."

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby the policy of the State to protect and
4 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. In
5 particular, the State shall provide comprehensive health care services for the children and the
6 youth, in order to nurture healthy and productive citizens. Towards this end, it is further
7 declared to be the policy of the State to give due recognition to the important role and
8 contributions of registered nurses who provide vital health services to our people and promote
9 their rights and welfare.

10 **SECTION 3. *Employment of Nurses in Public Schools.*** – The Department of Education, in
11 coordination with the Department of Health and other concerned agencies, shall be mandated
12 to employ at least one (1) registered nurse in every public school for the purpose of improving
13 the delivery of public health care services and providing relevant and timely education on
14 wellness, hygiene, sanitation and other health safety measures to public school students, while
15 providing gainful employment to registered nurses and utilizing their professional
16 competencies.

17 **SECTION 4. *Recruitment, Selection, and Training.*** – The Department of Education shall
18 secure the assistance of the Department of Health in recruiting, selecting, and training the
19 registered nurses employed by public schools to ensure their capability in addressing public
20 health and wellness concerns of the students.

21
22 For this purpose, the Department of Health is hereby mandated to issue guidelines
23 setting the qualifications of nurses to be deployed to public schools and to develop a module
24 for the relevant training of these nurses. The guidelines to be set shall in no case discriminate
25 against the hiring of fresh graduates or newly passed registered nurses.

26 **SECTION 5. *Minimum Qualification of Nurses.*** – Nurses engaged under this Act shall
27 have the following minimum qualifications: must have a valid RN license issued by the
28 Professional Regulatory Commission; must be willing to relocate to the assigned area for a
29 designated period; and must have passion for public health concerns.

1 **SECTION 6. *Stipend.*** – Nurses employed under this Act shall be entitled to a monthly
2 stipend equal to salary grade 15, consistent with the mandatory minimum entry- level pay for
3 government nurses under Republic Act No. 9173, otherwise known as the Philippine Nursing
4 Act of 2002.

5
6 **SECTION 7. *Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial
7 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the Department of
8 Education. *Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this*
9 *Act shall be included in the succeeding General Appropriation Act.*

10 **SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty days (60) from the
11 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education and the Department of Health shall
12 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations, as may be necessary to ensure the
13 effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

14 **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared
15 invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain
16 in full force and effect.

17 **SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders,
18 issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary
19 to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
20 accordingly.

21 **SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
22 publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

23 Approved,