


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1768

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by Congressman Alfredo D. Vargas III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our educational institutions play a vital role in ensuring the overall well-being of the students. One key feature of child-friendly schools is the ability to track and assess individual students in terms of inclusion, health, development, protection, learning barriers, learning achievement and special needs¹. Thus, it is of utmost importance that these schools monitor and evaluate not only the academic activity of their students but also their total well-being.

As a step in guaranteeing that this duty is met by our schools, this bill² seeks to require all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private, to keep and maintain a database of medical and dental records of their students. Through this, we are not only helping our schools to be child-friendly but we are also enabling them to aid the family and community in monitoring and maintaining the good health of the children.

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


ALFREDO D. VARGAS III

¹ Child-friendly Schools Manual issued by the United Nations Children's Fund

² The constituent panel on Public Health proposed this policy when this representation conducted the consultative program, *Lehislatibong Ugnayan ng Kongreso at mga Simbahan (LUKAS)*.

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AN ACT

REQUIRING ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS OF THEIR STUDENTS

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

SECTION 1. *Medical and Dental Records Requirement.* - All elementary and secondary schools, public or private, shall be required to have a database of their students medical and dental records upon the student's entrance in such schools and upon his or her entry into the grades prescribed by the Secretary of Health in regulations, provided that such regulations shall require that the records be updated at least twice during the elementary grades and twice in the secondary grades. An examination and health history of any child may be required by the local school authorities at any time in their discretion to promote the educational interests of such child. The medical and dental records shall be attached in a file that contains the student's academic records.

SEC. 2. *Valid Issuers of Medical and Dental Certificates.* - Each certificate in the medical and dental records shall be signed by a duly licensed physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, in case of the medical certificate and a dentist in case of the dental certificate, who is authorized to practice in the jurisdiction in which the examination was given, provided that the Secretary of Health has determined that such jurisdiction has standards of licensure and practice comparable to those of the Philippines.

SEC. 3. *When Examination Should Be Made.* - Such certificate shall describe the condition of the student when the examination was made, which shall not be more than twelve (12) months prior to the commencement of the school year in which the examination is required, and shall state whether such student is in a fit condition of health to permit his or her attendance at the public or private schools.

SEC. 4. *Source of the Medical and Dental Records.* - The student has the choice of submitting to the school his medical and dental certificate which came from a legitimate source as prescribed in the preceding sections or be examined by the medical practitioner assigned in the school where he is to be enrolled. If such student does not

present a health certificate as required in the section, unless he or she has been accommodated on religious grounds, the principal or the principal's designee shall serve a notice to the parents or guardian requiring the physical and dental examination.

SEC. 5. *Respect for Religious Beliefs.* – Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, no examinations for a medical or dental certificate or medical or dental history shall be required where a student of the parent or person in parental relation to such student objects thereto on the grounds that such examinations or health history may conflict with their genuine and sincere religious beliefs.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive order or rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,