

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5731**



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

As one of the initial steps in paving the way for the economic, political, social, and cultural cooperation of Southeast Asian nations, the top universities of the Philippines shifted their academic calendar to August to July from the previous June to May.

Synchronizing the Philippines' academic calendar with those of the international academic community has presented numerous benefits. It facilitates the internationalization of our universities in line with the ASEAN Economic Community Intergration. This will allow for easier transition for students and professionals who will pursue further studies within the region.

Aligning with the international academic calendar also facilitates student participation in exchange programs, thereby providing students with the opportunity to grow in an international and culturally diverse landscape. This will also allow the faculty to participate in many training programs and summer institutes during June and July.

To ensure that no Philippine academic institution is left behind, this bill seeks to synchronize the opening of all classes in all schools in the country and start the school year on the second Monday of August to the second Monday of September. This is the step that we need to take as we aspire to compete with other countries and be the intellectual capital of the world.

In line of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**ALFRED VARGAS**

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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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1. Synchronizing the Start of the School Year.** – Any provisions of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the start of the school year beginning school year 2018-2019 shall be synchronized.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,