

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6072



Introduced by: Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Government policies, guidelines, regulations, and procedures concerning the suspension or cancellation of classes and work have been limited to public storm warnings.

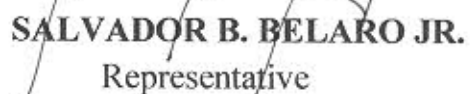
All too often, authorities have not been timely and accurate in their declaration of class and work suspensions or cancellations.

Widespread confusion, chaos, and disruption of peoples' lives have frequently resulted from the lack of a rational system governing suspension or cancellation of classes and work.

This bill factors in not just storms, but also floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunami, storm surge, toxic chemical spills, fire, active shooter situations, hostage-taking, kidnapping, banditry, terrorism, and state of emergency.

Classes and work may also be suspended or canceled because of widespread loss of electric power distribution, water supply distribution, or non-functioning of sewerage systems and widespread collapse or offline status of several banking or financial systems that disrupt the normal functioning or cause serious financial incapacity or disruption of households, communities, institutions, and workplaces.

Implementing rules and regulations will be crafted and promulgated by an inter-agency and multisectoral committee.



SALVADOR B. BELARO JR.
Representative
1-Ang Edukasyon Party-List

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A RATIONALIZED SYSTEM OF
TIMELY, EVIDENCE-BASED, AND PEOPLE-CENTRIC
SUSPENSION AND CANCELLATION OF CLASSES
AND OPERATIONS OF WORKPLACES

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "*Rationalized Cancellation and Suspension of Work and School Classes Act of 2017*".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the declared policy of the State that:

- 1) Zero casualty is a prime indicator of the effectiveness and efficiency of disaster risk reduction and management;
- 2) Keeping people out of harm's way must be done in timely, systemic, and rational fashion in response to and in anticipation of imminent and real threats to life, destruction of property, and disruption of daily lives of families and communities; and

- 3) All available resources and systems of government, the private sector, and communities, especially those harnessing the scientific, logistical, communications, and coordination mechanisms and methods, must be mobilized to: (a) adapt to, mitigate the effects of, and recover from natural calamities; and (b) avert and respond to man-made catastrophes and tragedies whether accidental, deliberate, or incidental, including armed conflict, criminal activity, and technological threats posing immediate, clear, and present danger to human life and widespread disruption affecting the lives of the many.

Section 3. Immediate and Automatic Suspension of Classes and Work.

A. *Classes at the early childhood, preschool, kindergarten, and elementary grade levels are immediately and automatic suspended, upon public declaration or announcement by competent institutional, local government, or national government authority, of any or a combination of the following situations and circumstances:*

- 1) Public Storm Signal Warning No. 1 over particular localities or geographic areas;
- 2) Widespread flooding at gutter level of streets around or leading to schools;
- 3) *Intensity IV earthquakes and aftershocks affecting a locality or geographic area;*
- 4) Toxic chemical spill within the premises of or in the immediate vicinity of the school; and
- 5) Fourth Alarm fire raging within and up to one hundred meters radius from a school.

B. *Classes up to and including junior high school, senior high school, at technical training institutions, and at undergraduate college levels are immediately and automatically suspended, upon public declaration or announcement by competent institutional, local government, or national government authority, of any or a combination of the following situations and circumstances:*

- 1) Public Storm Signal Warning No. 2 over particular localities or geographic areas;
- 2) Widespread flooding at one foot or more above gutter level of streets around or leading to schools;
- 3) Heavy rainfall or thunderstorm advisory covering particular localities and/or geographic areas;
- 4) Announcement of Second Alarm or Prepare to Evacuate water level of river or rivers running through or around local government jurisdictions or geographic areas;
- 5) Intensity V earthquakes and aftershocks affecting a locality;
- 6) Tsunami alert specifically for coastal areas;
- 7) Toxic chemical spill within the premises of or in the immediate vicinity of the school; and
- 8) Fifth Alarm fire raging within and up to one hundred meters radius from a school.

C. Classes up to and including the graduate level of higher education institutions and the operations of offices and other workplaces are immediately and automatically suspended, upon declaration by competent institutional, local government, or national government authority, of any or a combination of the following situations and circumstances:

- 1) Public Storm Signal Warning No. 3 or higher over particular localities or geographic areas;
- 2) Widespread flooding or landslides rendering impassable the streets around or leading to schools and workplaces;
- 3) Intense rainfall or thunderstorm advisory;
- 4) Second Alarm or Prepare to Evacuate water level of river or rivers running through or around local government jurisdictions or geographic areas;
- 5) Toxic chemical spill within the premises of or in the immediate vicinity of the school or office;
- 6) Intensity VI earthquakes and aftershocks affecting a locality; and
- 7) Task Force Alpha fire raging within and up to one hundred meters radius from a school or workplace.

Section 4. Preventive Suspension of Classes and Work. Competent institutional, local government, or national government authority shall preventively suspend classes and operations of offices and other workplaces given the following situations and circumstances:

- 1) Second Alarm or Prepare to Evacuate water level of river or rivers running through or around local government jurisdictions or geographic areas;
- 2) Public Storm Signal Warning No. 2 over particular localities or geographic areas;
- 3) Heavy or intense rainfall or thunderstorm advisory or tornado warning covering particular localities and/or geographic areas;
- 4) Storm surge warning and tsunami alert for particular coastal localities or geographic areas;
- 5) Toxic chemical spill within the limits of or in the immediate vicinity of the school or workplace or barangay, municipality, or city;
- 6) Widespread and prolonged incapacitation non-functioning of signaling and traffic control systems for streets, railways, light rail, ports, shipping, and aircraft;
- 7) Active shooter, kidnapping, or hostage-taking within the premises or in the immediate vicinity of the school or workplace;
- 8) Approach of or invasion by armed bandits, rebels, or terrorists; and
- 9) State of emergency over a municipality, city, province or administrative region of the country.

Section 5. Special Circumstances. Classes and Work may be suspended or canceled preventively and indefinitely whenever any or a combination of the following situations and circumstances persist for an extended number of hours or days:

- 1) Widespread loss of electric power distribution, water supply distribution, or non-functioning of sewerage systems; and
- 2) Widespread collapse or offline status of several banking or financial systems that disrupt the normal functioning or cause serious financial *incapacity or disruption of households, communities, institutions, and workplaces.*

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations shall be approved by an Inter-Agency and Multisectoral Committee (IAMC) composed of the following:

Chairman: Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology

Members:

Secretary of Department of Education

Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education

Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government

Secretary of the Department of Finance

Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry;

Secretary of the Department of Labor;

Executive Director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

President of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations

President of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines;

President of the Philippine Press Institute;

President of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas.

Members of the Committee may designate their respective Permanent Representative to the IAMC.

Section 7. Funding. Funding for the IAMC and the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the respective budgets of the national government agencies as provided in the annual General Appropriations Act and from the internal revenue allotments of local government units.

Section 8. Separability. - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 10. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with established internet website presence.

Approved.