

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -3 P12 52

SENATE

S.B. No. 357

BY: *fin*

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Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, located in the Pacific Ring of Fire, is at constant risk of earthquakes apart from other disasters. Schools and health facilities, aside from being shelter for the vulnerable- children, sick and elderly, are critical public infrastructures, especially in times of disaster when victims need emergency refuge, services and medical care. Therefore, schools and hospitals should be disaster-resilient.

This bill seeks to enhance our resiliency to disasters by preparing the citizenry, particularly school children and the occupants of health-care institutions, their administrators, operators, and personnel on the proper response and actions to take in cases of fires, earthquakes, and other hazardous phenomena.

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

  
LOREN LEGARDA  
Senator



13 JUL -3 P12:52

SENATE

S.B. No. **357**

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

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Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE CONDUCT OF FIRE, EARTHQUAKE, AND OTHER**  
**HAZARDOUS PHENOMENA DRILLS IN EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS AND**  
**ESTABLISHMENTS, SCHOOL BUSES, AND HEALTH-CARE INSTITUTIONS**

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

1        **Section 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as the "**Preparedness in Buildings**  
2 **during Fire, Earthquake and other Hazardous Phenomena Act.**"

3  
4        **Section 2. Statement of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
5 train its people in the quick and proper response to times of fires, earthquakes, and  
6 other hazardous phenomena so as to reduce the risks on their lives, limb, and  
7 properties.

8  
9        **Section 3. Drills in Educational Establishments and Buildings.**

- 10  
11        a. Fire and earthquake drills shall be held at least once a month in educational  
12 establishments where such establishments constitute the major function of a  
13 building. Thus, there shall be at least 10 drills in each school year.
- 14        b. The drills shall include practice and instruction concerning the location, use  
15 and operation of emergency exits, fire escapes, doors and fire extinguishers  
16 and other facilities provided for such purpose in buildings as well as the  
17 proper evacuation of buildings by persons in the event of fires, earthquakes  
18 and other hazardous phenomena.
- 19        c. Fire and earthquake drills shall include complete evacuation of all persons  
20 from the building, if necessary. Teachers and personnel shall be trained in  
21 assisting students in the evacuation of a building in times of fire, earthquakes,  
22 and other hazardous phenomena.

1 d. A record of all fire and earthquake drills shall be kept, and persons in charge  
2 of buildings/establishments shall file quarterly written reports with the  
3 respective Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council  
4 (RDRRMC) of each region, giving the time and date of each drill held.

5  
6 **Section 4. Drills on School Buses.**

- 7
- 8 a. All schools using or contracting school buses and other vehicles for  
9 transporting school children shall conduct at least two emergency evacuation  
10 drills on school buses and other vehicles during each school year. The first  
11 emergency evacuation drill shall be conducted during the first quarter of the  
12 school year and the second during the third quarter.
- 13 b. Each drill shall include practice and instruction concerning the proper  
14 evacuation of buses in cases of fires, earthquakes, and other hazardous  
15 phenomena.
- 16 c. Bus operators and drivers shall be trained and instructed by the Regional  
17 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) with proper  
18 training and instructions to enable them to carry out the provisions of this  
19 Act.
- 20 d. The school principal or bus operator/owner shall certify in writing to the  
21 RDRRMC that the drills required herein have been conducted.
- 22 e. Operators and drivers of public utility vehicles such as jeepneys and buses  
23 shall likewise be provided with proper training and instructions to enable  
24 them to carry out the provisions of this Act.

25  
26 **Section 5. Drills in Health-Care Institutions.**

- 27
- 28 a. Administrators of hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, orphanages and other  
29 buildings or structures used for the care of or occupied by the sick, infirm, or  
30 disabled shall be required to conduct safety drills on a monthly basis. Hence,  
31 there shall be at least twelve (12) drills in health-care institutions in a year.
- 32 b. Said drills shall be conducted with the administration and personnel of the  
33 hospital, nursing home, or other building or structure used for the care of or  
34 occupied by the sick, infirm, or disabled persons.

1 c. A record of all fire and earthquake drills shall be kept, and persons in charge  
2 of buildings/establishments shall file quarterly written reports with the  
3 RDRRMC, giving the time and date of each drill held.  
4

5 **Section 6. *Implementing Agency.*** The National Disaster Risk Reduction and  
6 Management Council (NDRRMC) and its regional and local offices shall oversee the  
7 implementation of this Act in each locality and shall keep a record of the reports  
8 submitted by educational building, health-care institution administrators and school  
9 bus operators and drivers.  
10

11 **Section 7. *Penalties.*** Building administrators or any person in charge of the  
12 administration or management of educational establishments/buildings, health-care  
13 institutions, and school bus operators and drivers who refuses or fails to carry out  
14 the provisions of this Act shall be given a warning for the first offense; a fine of One  
15 Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for the second offense; a fine of Five Thousand Pesos  
16 (P5,000.00) for the third offense; and imprisonment of one (1) month and a fine of  
17 Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) for subsequent offenses. The fines shall go to the  
18 funds of the local NDRRMC office and shall be used for disaster prevention and  
19 mitigation programs of the locality.  
20

21 **Section 8. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
22 regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
23 repealed or modified accordingly.  
24

25 **Section 9. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act shall be declared  
26 unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof not affected thereby shall  
27 continue in full force and effect.

28 **Section 10. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
29 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
30

31 Approved,