

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3667**



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***Introduced by REP. DENNIS "TOM" L. HERNANDEZ***

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE INSTALLATION AND UTILIZATION OF OFF-GRID**  
**SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The summer of 2023 recorded temperatures that scientists from the University of Cambridge described as the "hottest summer since the Roman Empire." Climate trends indicate that temperatures will continue to rise, and the World Meteorological Organization has already noted that Asia is warming at a particularly rapid pace. This was confirmed when South Asia and Southeast Asia experienced intense heat waves lasting for weeks in April 2024.

The Philippines recorded extreme temperatures and high humidity during the summer of 2024. Compounded by El Niño, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) issued danger level warnings in 31 areas, with heat indices ranging from 42 to 53 degrees Celsius across various parts of the country.

To cope with the rising heat index and stifling conditions, the Department of Education (DepEd) suspended classes in several areas and resumed remote learning, a system first implemented during the pandemic. By April 25, 2024, over 7,000 schools had shifted to this setup. DepEd later declared nationwide face-to-face class suspensions from April 29 to 30, 2024.

However, this setup is still not conducive to a productive learning environment. Asynchronous classes during the pandemic highlighted that many homes remain unequipped for the demands of distance learning. Connectivity issues, lack of equipment, and homes that are not climate-resilient all impact not only a child's ability to keep up with lessons but also their ability to continue schooling.

While no specific studies have yet measured the extent of learning loss due to weeks-long class suspensions, educational psychologists agree that it is inevitable. Disappointing results in global education assessments support this. The World Bank has stated that 91% of Filipino children at late primary age "are not proficient in reading." The 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) ranked the Philippines 77th out of 81 countries in mathematics, reading, and science. The

2024 PISA report further showed that the Philippines ranked fourth to the last in “creative thinking.”

This measure seeks to address these challenges by requiring public schools to install and utilize off-grid solar energy systems, specifically for powering air-conditioning units in classrooms and learning spaces. Solar energy remains the most abundant renewable energy source. Its use can significantly reduce energy costs and our dependence on imported fossil fuels, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. More importantly, it can minimize the number of class suspensions caused by extreme heat and poorly ventilated classrooms.

This measure aims to provide schoolchildren with relief from excessive heat, ensuring a safer and more conducive learning environment.

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

  
**REP. DENNIS “TOM” L. HERNANDEZ**  
*4<sup>th</sup> District of Rizal*



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*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 ***“Off-Grid Solar Energy Systems in All Public Schools Act”***.

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is declared a policy of the State to accelerate total electrification, increase access to sustainable energy, improve efficiency in the use of energy, spread literacy and equal opportunity in education around the country, and mandate the development and utilization of renewable energy sources. Towards this end, the State shall establish the infrastructure and mechanisms to ensure energy sufficiency in all public schools.

**SEC. 3. *Coverage.*** – This act shall provide a framework for establishing off-grid solar energy systems in all public schools around the country.

**SEC. 4. *Establishment of Off-Grid Solar Energy Systems in All Public Schools.***  
– The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Energy (DOE), shall identify and begin construction and installation of off-grid solar energy systems in public schools nationwide within one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 5. *Policy.*** – The off-grid solar energy systems to be established shall initially supply at least twenty percent (20%) of the average monthly electricity utilization (AMU) of the public school buildings, particularly for the operation of air-conditioning units in academic facilities, including but not limited to: classrooms, laboratories, and libraries for the first year after the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That solar energy utilization shall be increased annually for five years at which point the established

solar energy systems are expected to have the capacity to supply at least fifty percent (50%) of the AMU of the public school buildings: *Provided, further,* That nothing in this Act shall prevent the agencies mentioned in Section 4 herein from providing more than the minimum supply of AMU per year: *Provided, furthermore,* That nothing in this Act shall preclude the expansion of existing solar energy systems installed in public school buildings.

**SEC. 6. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against any available funds of DepEd, DPWH, and DOE. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the immediately subsequent year. The installation of Off-Grid Solar Energy Systems shall be performed by DOE-accredited suppliers in accordance with Government Procurement Laws.

**SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of Energy shall provide the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation within thirty (30) days upon the approval of this Act. Rules and regulations shall take effect after they have been made and shall be published in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

**SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any provisions of this Act are declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*