

'No homework' bill penalties removed

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After drawing flak from teachers, Quezon City 5th Rep. Alfred Vargas corrected what he said had been a “mistake” and removed the penalty of imprisonment and a fine for teachers in his no-homework policy bill.

House Bill 4852 filed by Vargas which was read at the plenary last 1 October has no penal provision, unlike House Bill 3883 which imposes a P50,000 fine or imprisonment of one to two years on teachers who would violate the policy.

Vargas earlier said his office made a mistake when it included penalties in the bill and explained that the penalty provision was meant for another bill that his office was preparing.

In a previous statement, he also apologized to the teachers who were affected by his office's mistake.

“The inclusion of the penal clause in our 'No Homework on Weekends Bill' was unintentional,” he said.

The Teachers' Dignity Coalition (TDC) earlier denounced the proposal of Vargas to criminalize the act of giving assignments by imposing penalties.

The TDC said that this is unacceptable since teachers already suffer from low pay on top of a heavy workload.