



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 3826

BY REPRESENTATIVES ESCUDERO, ALMARIO, TEODORO, DEL MAR, VILLAFUERTE, ANGARA, SYJUCO, MALAPITAN, AUMENTADO, ZAMORA-APSAY, CARI, CALIMBAS-VILLAROSA, HERRERA-DY, OCAMPOS, MERCADO-REVILLA, FERRIOL, UMALI (C.), ANTONIO, MAGSAYSAY (E.), LACSON-NOEL, CAJAYON, JAAFAR, CAGAS, ROMUALDO, SARMIENTO (M.), ACOP, DAYANGHIRANG, DALOG, ARROYO (I.), BINAY, BALINDONG, LAGMAN, DE VENECIA, ESPINA, TINGA, RADAZA, ARROYO (D.), DEL ROSARIO (A.), MARCOS, GARCIA (P.J.), GARCIA-ALBANO, LAGDAMEO (A.), PUNO, OCAMPO, ENVERGA, TINIO, EVARDONE, JOSON, ILAGAN, PALATINO, LAGDAMEO (M.), DIMAPORO (F.), ORTEGA (V.), LOONG, PIAMONTE, FARIÑAS, PADILLA AND RODRIGUEZ (R.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 387

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION INTO THE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
2 “Kindergarten Education Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In consonance with the Millennium
4 Development Goals on achieving Education for All (EFA) by the year 2015, it
5 is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide equal opportunities for all
6 children to avail of accessible mandatory and compulsory kindergarten

1 education that effectively promotes physical, social, intellectual, emotional and
2 skills stimulation and values formation to sufficiently prepare them for formal
3 elementary schooling. This Act shall apply to elementary school system being
4 the first stage of compulsory formal education.

5 Kindergarten education is vital to the academic and technical
6 development of the Filipino child for it is the period when the young mind's
7 absorptive capacity for learning is at its sharpest. Kindergarten education shall
8 serve as a requirement for entrants to Grade I upon the effectivity of this Act.

9 *SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.* – The terms used in this Act are defined
10 as follows:

11 (a) BEE shall refer to the Bureau of Elementary Education;

12 (b) DepEd shall refer to the Department of Education; and

13 (c) Kindergarten Education shall be understood in this Act to mean one
14 (1) year of preschool education for children five (5) years old and above as a
15 prerequisite for Grade I.

16 *SEC. 4. Institutionalization of Kindergarten Education.* – Kindergarten
17 education is hereby institutionalized as part of basic education and shall be
18 made mandatory and compulsory starting School Year 2011-2012. The public
19 kindergarten education program shall be free from tuition and other school
20 fees. Henceforth, all referrals to preschool education shall now mean
21 kindergarten education.

22 *SEC. 5. Implementing Agency.* – The authority to regulate the
23 organization, operation and/or implementation of the kindergarten education
24 program of both public and private schools shall be vested upon the DepEd,
25 through the BEE.

26 *SEC. 6. Duties, Powers and Functions.* – The DepEd, through the
27 BEE, shall exercise the following powers and functions:

28 (a) Oversee and supervise the organization, operation and
29 implementation of the kindergarten education program;

1 (b) Develop the curriculum for kindergarten education consistent with
2 the universally accepted norms and standards, including values formation, and
3 to periodically review such for purposes of upgrading;

4 (c) Conceive, develop and extend a regular training program to
5 kindergarten education teachers to ensure constant updating of their knowledge
6 in modern trends, methodologies and concepts on early childhood education;

7 (d) Prescribe the necessary qualifications for the hiring and
8 accreditation of teachers who will handle the kindergarten education program;
9 and

10 (e) Exercise authority over the operation of private kindergarten
11 institutions.

12 *SEC. 7. Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Education shall
13 immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the
14 free, mandatory and compulsory public kindergarten education, the initial
15 funding of which shall be charged against the current appropriations for
16 kindergarten education of the Department. Thereafter, such sums as may be
17 necessary for the continued implementation of the free public kindergarten
18 education program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19 *SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90)
20 days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education, in consultation
21 with the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, the Secretary of
22 Budget and Management, and the Secretary of the Interior and Local
23 Government, shall promulgate the rules and regulations needed for the
24 implementation of this Act.

25 *SEC. 9. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held
26 invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity
27 of the other provisions hereof.

1 SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Pertinent provisions of Republic Act
2 No. 8980 and all other laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and
3 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
4 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

5 SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
6 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of
7 general circulation.

Approved,

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