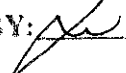




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SENATE

S. B. No. 2713

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The development of our country is to a large extent dependent on how we have prepared our young for the global competition. Filipinos consider education as the embodiment of their hopes and aspirations for a better life. In fact, access to quality education is a state policy that is enshrined in the constitution.

The passage of this measure will not only give full meaning to the Philippine commitment to the Education for All (EFA) global movement and its expanded vision of education but it will also fulfill the vision of functionally literate Filipinos.

Under this proposed measure more learning years would be added in the pre-school level to ensure that pupils are better prepared to begin their formal education rather than forcing students to prolong their stay in high school by enrolling in the 5<sup>th</sup> year.

The government's education upgrade should be focused on adding more years and funds to pre-school learning than adding more years in the high school. The DepEd officials reveal that the dropout rate is more prevalent in Grades 1, 2 and 3 while 42 percent of those entering public school for the first time are deemed not ready for Grade 1.

Institutionalizing additional learning years in pre-school such as nursery and kindergarten education would adequately prepare every young pupil in coping with the "rigors of formal schooling." It is in the pre-school period when the young mind's absorptive capacity for learning is considered at its sharpest. It is during this early stage of development that a child can better learn and assimilate ideas because of the rapid growth of the physical and mental faculties.

Thus, this bill provides for a 13-year basic education program otherwise known as "K2 plus Grade 7", with the addition of two years of kindergarten and a Seventh Grade in elementary.

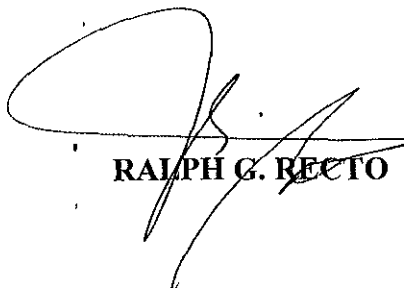
This bill likewise prescribes the use of mother tongue-based multi-lingual framework as a medium of instruction starting in the kindergarten level up to Grade 3.

Scientific studies and global trends point to a multi-lingual based education using the mother tongue as becoming the standard teaching method for basic literacy all over the world. In the Philippines, a local study reveals that the average Filipino is multi-lingual and can understand several local dialects aside from English.

The additional years in basic education shall be implemented by phase with the Kindergarten to be implemented in School Year (SY) 2012-2013, while the additional Grade Seven will start in SY 2015-2016.

Cognizant of the priority given to basic education, the measure earmarks proceeds from the Value-Added Tax collections amounting to Forty Billion annually for the next three years after the approval of the bill for the implementation of the kindergarten education. The budgetary requirements of the additional Grade 7 shall likewise be charged to the proceeds from the Value Added Tax for the first three years of its implementation. Thereafter, the budgetary requirements of the additional years of basic education shall be charged to the general fund and included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of the bill is earnestly requested.

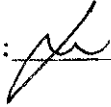


**RALPH G. RECTO**

'11 FEB 23 P4 :09

SENATE

S. B. No. 2713

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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AN ACT  
ENHANCING THE CURRICULUM AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF YEARS  
FOR BASIC EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

*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 “Enhanced Basic Education Act  
2 of 2011”.

3        **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall establish, maintain and support a  
4 complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and  
5 society.

6        Likewise, it is hereby declared the policy of the State that every graduate of basic education  
7 shall be an empowered individual who has learned, through a program that is rooted on sound  
8 educational principles and geared towards excellence, the foundations for learning throughout  
9 life, the competence to engage in work and be productive, the ability to coexist in fruitful  
10 harmony with local and global communities, the capability to engage in autonomous critical  
11 thinking, and the capacity to transform others and one’s self.

12        For this purpose, the State shall create a functional basic education system that will develop  
13 productive and responsible citizens equipped with the essential competencies and skills for both  
14 life-long learning and employment. In order to achieve this, the state shall:

- 15        a) give every student an opportunity to receive quality education based on an enhanced  
16        and decongested curriculum that is internationally recognized and comparable; and  
17        b) change public perception that high school education is just preparation for college;  
18        rather, it should allow one to take advantage of opportunities for gainful career or  
19        employment and/or self-employment in a rapidly changing and increasingly globalized  
20        environment.

21        It is also the policy of the State to make education learner-oriented and responsive to the  
22 needs, cognitive and cultural capacity, the circumstances and diversity of learners, schools and  
23 communities through the appropriate languages of teaching and learning.

24        **SEC. 3.** *Basic Education.* Basic education is the education intended to meet basic  
25 learning needs which lays the foundation on which subsequent learning can be based. It  
26 encompasses early childhood, elementary and high school education as well as alternative  
27 learning systems for out-of-school youth and adult learners and includes education for those with  
28 special needs.

1           **SEC. 4 *Enhanced Basic Education.*** Basic education will be for a total of thirteen (13)  
2 years and shall include two (2) years of kindergarten, seven (7) years of elementary education  
3 and four (4) years of secondary education.

4           Kindergarten education shall be understood in this Act to mean two (2) years of  
5 preschool education for children four (4) years old and above as a prerequisite for Grade I.

6           Elementary education shall refer to the first stage of free and compulsory, formal  
7 education primarily concerned with providing basic education. Elementary education can  
8 likewise be attained through alternative learning system.

9           Secondary education shall refer to the stage of free formal education following the  
10 elementary level concerned with continuing basic education. Secondary education can likewise  
11 be attained through alternative learning system.

12           The curriculum for the basic education shall be formulated and determined by the  
13 Department of Education (DepEd).

14           **SEC 5. *Medium of Instruction.*** – The mother tongue of the learner also known as the first  
15 language (L1), home language, native language or vernacular shall be the primary medium of  
16 instruction for teaching and learning from the kindergarten level to Grade 3 of the elementary  
17 education. The DepEd in coordination with the Commission on Filipino Language and in close  
18 collaboration with academic and research institutions concerned with education shall formulate a  
19 mother-tongue-based multilingual framework for teaching and learning in the kindergarten and  
20 elementary education.

21           **SEC. 6. *Implementation by Phase.*** The kindergarten program shall be compulsory starting  
22 in School Year (SY) 2012-2013. The additional Seventh Grade in the elementary education shall  
23 be implemented in SY 2015-2016.

24           **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days after the  
25 effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with the Department of Budget and  
26 Management (DBM), shall promulgate the rules, and regulations needed for the  
27 implementation of this Act.

28           **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** – The DepEd shall immediately include in the program of the  
29 Department the operationalization of the free, mandatory and compulsory public kindergarten  
30 education, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the savings from  
31 the current appropriations of the DepEd and proceeds from the Value-Added Tax collections  
32 amounting to Forty Billion Pesos (P40,000,000,000) earmarked every year for the next three  
33 years for the annual budgetary requirements of the kindergarten education. Thereafter, such  
34 sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the free public kindergarten  
35 education program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act: *Provided*, That  
36 the budgetary requirements of the Grade Seven when due for implementation shall be likewise  
37 charged to the proceeds of the Value Added Tax and included in the General Appropriations Act.

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

41           **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – Pertinent provisions of Batas Pambansa Bilang 232 and  
42 all other laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or  
43 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

*Approved,*