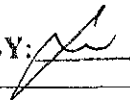


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'11 MAR 24 P1:30

SENATE
S. B. No. 2758

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator JUAN PONCE ENRILE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Article XIV of the Philippine Constitution, the State shall promote the protection of the rights of all citizens to quality and accessible education. While there is a governing law on daycare programs, and elementary and secondary education handled by Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Department of Education (DepEd), respectively, there is no governing law stipulating preschool to be compulsory and mandatory.

In 2005, the National Preschool Program was created to standardize the curriculum taught in daycare centers to distinguish between the socialization function of the daycare program under DSWD and educational function of the preschool handled by DepEd. However, this was implemented only by virtue of a presidential directive; and to date, there is still no governing law stipulating preschool to be mandatory and compulsory.

The implementation of Republic Act No. 6972 or the Barangay (Village) Level Total Protection of Children Act requiring all local government units to establish daycare centers in every village also depends on the priorities and funding allocated by the local government unit.

A study conducted by the DepEd-Bureau of Elementary Education on the effectiveness of preschool education showed the need to standardize the delivery of preschool education particularly in the areas of curriculum, instructions, and instructional materials.

It is thus imperative for the government to provide an early intervention to provide equal opportunities for children to avail of free and compulsory preschool and elementary education that will effectively promote physical, social, intellectual skills. This will eventually help improve dropout rates as well as cohort survival rates since it will sufficiently prepare children for formal elementary schooling thereafter.

This bill aims to expand quality preschool education including the adoption of a standard curriculum, training and hiring program for preschool classes and teachers, distribution of learning materials, and construction of preschool classrooms.

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


JUAN PONCE ENRILE

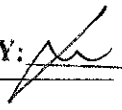
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'11 MAR 24 P1:30

SENATE

S. B. No. 2758

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator JUAN PONCE ENRILE

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING PRE-SCHOOL 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:

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

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide equal opportunities for all children to avail of free and compulsory preschool education that effectively promotes physical, social, intellectual, emotional and skills stimulation and values formation to sufficiently prepare them for the formal elementary schooling. This Act shall apply to elementary school system, being the first stage of compulsory formal education.

Preschool education is vital to the academic and technical development of the Filipino child for it is the period when the young mind’s absorptive capacity for learning is at its sharpest.

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

- (a) “BEE” refers to the Bureau of Elementary Education,
- (b) “Day Care Service Programs” refers to an arrangement whereby supplemental parental care is provided to a child who may be neglected, abused, exploited or abandoned part of the day where parents cannot attend to the needs of the child;
- (c) “DepEd” refers to the Department of Education;
- (d) “Preschool Education” refers to one (1) year of preparatory schooling for children five (5) year old and above as a pre-requisite for enrolment in Grade 1.

SEC. 4. *Institutionalization of Preschool Education.* – Preschool education is hereby institutionalized as part of basic education and shall be made mandatory and compulsory, provided that public preschool education program shall be free from payment of tuition and other school fees.

No student shall be admitted to Grade 1 without having attended at least one (1) year of pre-school education: *Provided*, that the student passes a prescribed examination which shall test his readiness for enrollment in Grade 1.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Agency.* – The authority to regulate the organization, operation and/or implementation of the preschool education program shall be vested upon the DepEd, through the BEE.

The national government shall continue to support the day care service programs under Republic Act No. 8980, otherwise known as the Early Childhood Care and Development Act, subject to the financial assistance to be provided by the local government units and the technical assistance and accreditation system extended by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in consultation with the DepEd.

SEC. 6. *Duties, Powers and Functions.* – The DepEd shall have the following duties, powers and functions:

- (a) Oversee and supervise the implementation of the preschool education program throughout the country;
- (b) Develop curriculum for preschool education consistent with the universally accepted norms and standards, including values formation, and to periodically review such for purposes of improving said curriculum;
- (c) Conceive, develop and extend regular training programs to preschool education teachers to ensure constant updating of their knowledge in modern trends, methodologies and concepts on early childhood education;
- (d) Prescribe necessary qualifications for the hiring and accreditation of teachers who will handle the preschool education program; and
- (e) Formulate necessary guidelines and regulatory standards in connection with the operation of private preschool institutions.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Education shall immediately include in the DepEd's program the operational requirements of the compulsory preschool education program, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current appropriations for preschool education of DepEd. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of the preschool education program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd, in consultation with the DSWD, the Department of Budget and Management, and the Department of Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

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

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 8980 or the Early Childhood Care and Development Act, and other laws, decrees, executive

orders and rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,