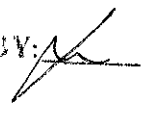




Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

'11 MAY -5 P5:54

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 31

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations; Finance; and Local Government on MAY - 5 2011.

Re: Senate Bill No. 2802

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 839, 1518, 2567, and 2613.

Sponsor: Senator Angara.

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations; Finance; and Local Government, to which were referred Senate Bill No. 839, introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada, entitled:

**“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR INDIGENT
PRE-KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN”**

Senate Bill No. 1518, introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, entitled:

**“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM TO HELP IMPROVE THE PHILIPPINE
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM BY PROVIDING GRANTS TO STATE EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INCLUSION OF AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF EARLY
EDUCATION PRECEDING THE YEAR A CHILD ENTERS KINDERGARTEN”**

Senate Bill No. 2567, introduced by Senator Angara, entitled:

**“AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE EARLY YEARS FROM 0 TO 6 AS THE FIRST CYCLE OF
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8980 FOR THIS
PURPOSE, STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

and Senate Bill No. 2613, introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, entitled:

**“AN ACT
PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PRINCIPALS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT”**

have considered the same and have the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached bill, Senate Bill No. 2802, prepared by the Committees, entitled:

**“AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE EARLY YEARS FROM ZERO (0) TO SIX (6) AS THE FIRST
CYCLE OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOR THIS PURPOSE
STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
RENAMING THE DAY CARE CENTER AS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

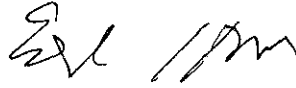
be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 839, 1518, 2567, and 2613 with Senators Ejercito Estrada, Defensor Santiago and Angara as authors.

Chairpersons:



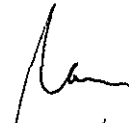
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FRANKLIN M. DRILON

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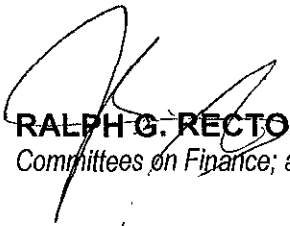
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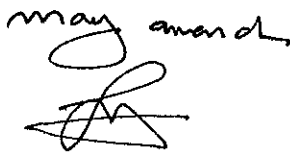
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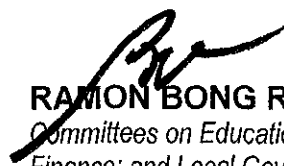


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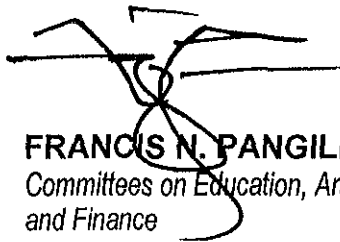
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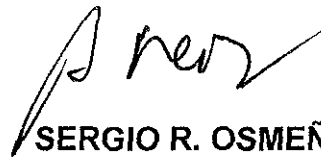
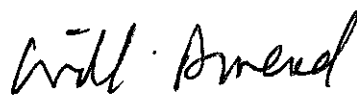
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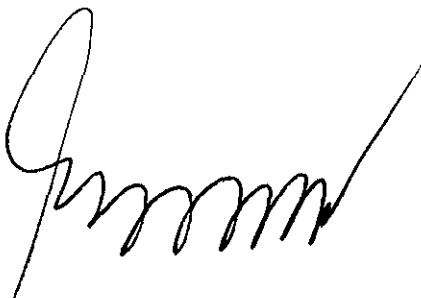
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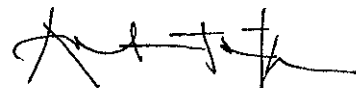
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GREGORIO B. HONASAN II

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Youth, Women and Family Relations;
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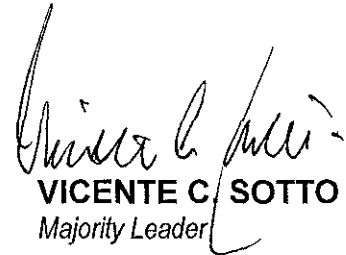


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV

*Committees on Education, Arts and Culture;
Youth, Women and Family Relations;
and Local Government*

Ex-Officio Members:

JINGGOY EJERCITO-ESTRADA
President Pro-Tempore



VICENTE C SOTTO III
Majority Leader

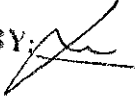


ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO
Minority Leader

Hon. JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senate President
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

11 MAY -5 P5:54

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

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S. No. 2802

Prepared jointly by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations; Finance; and Local Government with Senators Ejercito Estrada, Defensor Santiago and Angara as authors

AN ACT

RECOGNIZING THE EARLY YEARS FROM ZERO (0) TO SIX (6) AS THE FIRST CYCLE OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOR THIS PURPOSE STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, RENAMING THE DAY CARE CENTER AS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the Early Years Act
2 (EYA).

3 **SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 promote the rights of children to survival, development and special protection with full
5 recognition of the nature of childhood and its special needs; and to support parents in
6 their roles as primary caregivers and as their children's first teachers.

7 The State shall institutionalize a National System for Early Childhood Care and
8 Development (ECCD) that is comprehensive, integrative and sustainable, that involves

1 multi-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration at the national and local levels among
2 government; among service providers, families and communities, and among the public
3 and private sectors, nongovernment organizations; professional associations, and
4 academic institutions.

5 This System shall promote the inclusion of children with special needs and
6 advocate respect for cultural and linguistic diversity. It shall be anchored on
7 complementary strategies for ECCD that include service delivery for children from
8 zero (0) to age six (6), educating parents and caregivers, encouraging the active
9 involvement of parents and communities in ECCD programs, raising awareness about
10 the important efforts that improve the quality of life for young children and families.

11 It shall also be the policy of the State to recognize the early years from zero (0) to
12 age six (6) as the first cycle of educational development.

13 **SEC 3. Objectives.** – The objectives of the National ECCD System are:

14 a) To achieve improved infant and child survival rates by ensuring that
15 adequate health and nutrition programs are accessible to young children and their
16 parents from the prenatal period throughout the early childhood years;

17 b) To enhance the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, psychological, spiritual
18 and language development of young children;

19 c) To enhance the role of parents and other caregivers as the primary
20 caregivers and educators of their children especially from zero (0) to six (6) years;

21 1.) To facilitate a smooth transition from care and education provided at home to
22 community or school-based setting and to kindergarten and primary school;

- 1 2.) To enhance the capabilities of service providers and their supervisors to comply
2 with quality standards for various ECCD programs;
- 3 3.) To enhance and sustain the efforts of communities to promote ECCD programs
4 and ensure that special support is provided for poor, disadvantaged and linguistic
5 *minority communities*;
- 6 4.) To ensure that young children are adequately prepared for the formal learning
7 system and that both public and private schools are responsive to the development
8 needs of these children;
- 9 5.) To establish an efficient system for early identification, prevention, referral,
10 and intervention for giftedness and development disorders and disabilities in children
11 from zero (0) to six (6) years; and
- 12 6.) To improve the quality standards of public and private ECCD programs through,
13 but not limited to, a registration and credential system for ECCD service providers.

14 **SEC 4. *Definitions.*** – For purposes of this Act:

15 a) Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) System refers to the full range
16 of health, nutrition, early education and social development programs that provide for
17 the basic holistic needs of young children from zero (0) to age six (6), and to promote
18 their optimum growth and development. These programs include:

- 19 1) Center-based programs, such as the day care service established under
20 Republic Act No. 6972 hereinafter referred to as the child development service, public
21 and private pre-schools, kindergarten or school-based programs, community or church-
22 based early childhood education programs initiated by non-government organizations

1 or people's organizations, workplace-related child care and education programs, child
2 minding centers, health centers and stations; and

3 2) Home-based programs, such as the neighborhood-based play groups,
4 family child care programs, parent education and home visiting programs.

5 b) ECCD Service Providers include the various professionals, paraprofessionals,
6 and volunteer caregivers who are directly responsible for the care and education of
7 young children from zero (0) to six (6) years through the various center and home-
8 based programs. They include, but are not limited to, day care workers hereinafter
9 referred to as child development workers, child development teachers, teacher-aiders,
10 rural health midwives, social workers, community health workers, barangay nutrition
11 scholars, parent effectiveness service volunteers, and family child care providers.

12 c) ECCD Curriculum refers to the age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate
13 educational objectives, programs of activities, organized learning experiences and
14 recommended learning materials for children that are implemented by service
15 providers through center and home-based programs. It shall consist of national
16 program goals and guidelines, instructional objectives, and content outlines
17 integrating local language, local learning experiences and indigenous learning
18 materials.

19 d) Parent Education refers to the various formal and alternative means of providing
20 parents with information, skills, and support systems to assist them in their roles as
21 their children's primary caregivers and educators. These include public and private

1 parent education programs linked to center, home and media-based child care and
2 education programs.

3 **SEC 5. System Framework and Components.** - The ECCD System shall include
4 the following components:

5 a) *ECCD Curriculum* – which focuses on children’s total development according to
6 their individual needs and socio-cultural background. It shall promote the delivery of
7 complementary and integrative services for health care, nutrition, early childhood
8 education, sanitation and cultural activities. It shall use the child’s first language as
9 the medium of instruction.

10 b) *Parent Education and Involvement, Advocacy, and Mobilization of Communities*
11 – which harness and develop parents’ strengths as providers of ECCD programs at
12 home, active partners of other stakeholders, advocates for community concerns that
13 affect children, and pillars of support for local and national ECCD programs through
14 community organization efforts.

15 c) *Human Resource Development Program* – which establishes mechanisms for
16 the systematic professionalization of ECCD service providers, through enrollment in
17 educational programs in site-based or distance education modes, through pre-service
18 or in-service training including continuing education programs, whereby a registration
19 and credential system shall be developed in the ECCD System.

20 d) *ECCD Management* – which focuses on a continuing process of planning,
21 implementation, supervision, financial management, monitoring, evaluation and
22 reporting. It shall encourage the active involvement and build the capabilities

1 of service providers, parents and local government officials to sustain the
2 program, and it shall be guided by the principles of decentralization as stipulated in
3 the Local Government Code of 1991 and the principles of shared governance in the
4 Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001.

5 e) Quality Standards and Accreditation – which ensures that each component in
6 the ECCD System complies with national quality standards to be established by
7 the ECCD Council linked to an accreditation process.

8 **SEC 6. - *Expanding the ECCD System.*** – The National ECCD System shall be
9 expanded to all provinces, cities/municipalities and barangays as may be determined
10 by the ECCD Council to achieve universal ECCD coverage for all children from zero (0)
11 to six (6) years over a five-year period.

12 **SEC 7. - *Implementing Arrangements and Operational Structures.*** – The
13 implementation of the National ECCD System shall be the responsibility of the
14 ECCD Council.

15 a) Responsibilities of the ECCD Council – The ECCD Council shall be
16 responsible for developing policies and programs, providing technical assistance
17 and support to the ECCD service providers, and monitoring of ECCD service benefits
18 and outcomes.

19 The Department of Education (DepED), the Department of Social Welfare and
20 Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the National Nutrition Council
21 (NNC) and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) shall jointly prepare

1 annual ECCD work plans that will coordinate their respective technical assistance and
2 support for the National ECCD System.

3 They shall consolidate existing program implementing guidelines that ensure
4 consistency in integrated service delivery within the National ECCD System.

5 1) The DepEd shall promote the National ECCD System in schools.
6 ECCD programs in public schools shall be the responsibility of their respective
7 school principal/school-head within the standards set forth in the National ECCD
8 System. It shall also make available existing facilities of public elementary schools
9 for ECCD classes.

10 2) Private pre-schools, NGO-initiated community, church, home, and
11 workplace-based service providers shall be registered by the ECCD Council.

12 These public and private ECCD service providers shall operate within the
13 standards set forth in the National ECCD system.

14 b) Responsibilities of Local Government Units – Local government units (LGUs)
15 shall be primarily responsible for:

16 1) Implementing the National ECCD System by providing basic public ECCD
17 programs;

18 2) Supporting the organization of parent cooperatives to initiate the
19 establishment of ECCD programs;

20 3) Ensuring that service providers of public ECCD programs under their
21 supervision shall be justly compensated, that adequate funds are available, and their
22 working conditions are conducive to fulfill national quality standards; and

1 4) Providing funds for the training and continuing education of public ECCD
2 service providers.

3 c) Responsibilities of Families and Communities - The families and
4 communities shall support the local ECCD programs by participating in various
5 projects for the overall development of their children from zero (0) to six (6) years.

6 **SEC 8. Strengthening of the ECCD Council.** - The ECCD Council shall be
7 strengthened to ensure the State's focus on building a strong foundation for the
8 learning and development of children during the early years from zero (0) to six (6)
9 years and support the full range of health, nutrition, early education and social
10 development programs for the child's holistic development; and ensure sustained inter-
11 agency and multi-sectoral collaboration.

12 Organization - The ECCD Council shall be composed of a Governing Board and
13 a Secretariat. The ECCD Governing Board shall be headed by a Chairman with the
14 salary grade and emoluments of a cabinet secretary to be appointed by the President.

15 a) Composition of the ECCD Governing Board. The following shall be members of
16 the ECCD Governing Board:

- 17 1) Department of Education (DepED)
- 18 2) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- 19 3) Department of Health (DOH)
- 20 4) National Nutrition Council (NNC)
- 21 5) Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP)

1 In addition one (1) private individual who is an ECCD practitioner and expert shall
2 be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Board.

3 The heads of the concerned departments, agencies and institutions shall as
4 much as possible attend the meetings of the Board. In their absence they must
5 designate a permanent representative with a rank not lower than an Undersecretary or
6 its equivalent who may attend and participate at meetings of the Board.

7 The Board shall meet once a month or as often as necessary.

8 b) Council Secretariat -- There shall be established an ECCD Secretariat headed
9 by an executive director to be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the
10 Board. He/she shall have the rank, privileges, and emoluments of a Career Executive
11 Service Officer I.

12 Nothing herein shall prejudice any right vested prior to the enactment of this Act.

13 There shall be created two (2) permanent positions of Deputy Executive
14 Directors to be appointed by the Board, one of whom shall be concerned with ECCD
15 programs and activities and the other with general administrative services of the ECCD
16 Council.

17 The Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Directors shall be assisted by a
18 designated ECCD Focal Person from the DepED, DSWD, DOH, NNC and ULAP and
19 by technical staff as may be necessary to achieve the goals and objectives of the
20 National ECCD System.

1 c) Functions of the ECCD Council – The ECCD Council shall implement
2 the National Early Childhood Care and Development System and perform the following
3 functions:

4 1. Promulgate policies and implementing guidelines for ECCD programs in
5 consultation with stakeholders, including the regional level when appropriate,
6 consistent with the national policy and program frameworks as defined in this Act;

7 2. Establish ECCD program standards that reflect developmentally appropriate
8 and culturally relevant practices for ECCD programs, which shall interface with the
9 kindergarten and primary school curriculum of the DepED;

10 3. Develop a national system for the recruitment, registration, continuing
11 education and equivalency, and credential system of ECCD service
12 providers, supervisors and administrators to improve and professionalize the
13 ECCD sector and upgrade quality standards of public and private ECCD programs;

14 4. Develop a national system of awards and recognition to deserving
15 ECCD program implementers and service providers;

16 5. Promote, encourage and coordinate the various ECCD programs of the
17 DepED, DSWD, DOH and NNC and monitor the delivery of services to the ECCD
18 program beneficiaries nationwide;

19 6. Evaluate and assess the impact and outcome of various ECCD programs
20 nationwide through an effective information system;

21 7. Develop and establish a national system for early identification, screening,
22 surveillance of early childhood disabilities, developmental problems, and giftedness;

1 8. Develop and implement various support mechanisms that maximize the
2 public and private resources for implementing ECCD programs, giving priority to
3 the needy and high risk children from poor communities;

4 9. Provide funds to poor and disadvantaged communities for the establishment
5 and expansion of public ECCD programs, improvement of physical facilities and for
6 hiring of ECCD service providers;

7 10. Promote and encourage private sector initiatives for the establishment of
8 ECCD programs;

9 11. Provide guidelines for the conduct of solicitations and requests for
10 assistance from local and international civic organizations, private philanthropic
11 foundations to supplement available resources; and

12 12. Perform such other functions as the ECCD Council may deem necessary.

13 **SEC 9. Financing ECCD Programs.** – ECCD programs shall be financed through
14 a combination of public and private funds. All public ECCD program providers shall
15 prioritize children from zero (0) to six (6) years from families who are in greatest need
16 and who can least afford private ECCD programs.

17 a) The DepED, DSWD, DOH, NNC and ULAP shall support the implementation of
18 the National ECCD System and shall include in their respective annual general
19 appropriation beginning the fiscal year following the approval of this Act the necessary
20 funding to achieve the goal of universal coverage of ECCD programs to all children
21 from zero (0) to six (6) years within a five year period and sustain the Program from
22 thereon.

1 b) Public support for ECCD programs – The government shall support public
2 ECCD programs that shall involve the LGUs, and funds from the national government
3 agencies for technical assistance and support.

4 Additional funds may be generated from intergovernmental donors and financial
5 institutions by the appropriate government agencies through the NEDA to support the
6 public programs in all municipalities including the urban poor.

7 There shall be established a fund for an ECCD Program Contracting Scheme
8 with accredited private providers at the community levels.

9 c) ECCD Council support for ECCD programs. The ECCD Council members shall
10 support ECCD programs through funds for technical assistance and support.

11 The DepED shall provide technical assistance and resources to support the
12 kindergarten program in the private schools; and the kindergarten program in child
13 development centers as may be deemed necessary by the ECCD Council; and the
14 early education component of ECCD programs for children aged zero (0) to four (4)
15 years, by providing teacher training, supplementary learning materials and reference
16 materials as may be deemed necessary by the ECCD Council.

17 The DSWD shall provide technical assistance and resources to support the child
18 care program, parent effectiveness service, child minding centers, family child care
19 and parent-child development programs that shall continue to be funded by the LGUs
20 for the construction of basic infrastructure, provision of facilities, materials and
21 equipment, compensation for the service providers.

1 The DOH shall provide technical assistance and resources to support the health
2 care programs, growth monitoring and promotion, and supplemental nutrition programs
3 that shall continue to be funded by the LGUs.

4 The Work and Financial Plans of DepED, DSWD, DOH, NNC and ULAP shall be
5 coordinated with the ECCD Council.

6 d) Support for ECCD Programs - Support for ECCD programs can be solicited from
7 local and international civil organization and private philanthropic foundations to
8 supplement available resources.

9 Workplace-based or related ECCD programs shall be supported by corporations
10 and employees in the form of physical facilities and recurrent operating costs. The
11 operating costs incurred for employer or corporate-sponsored ECCD programs can be
12 deducted from taxable income. Provided, that the employer or corporation will not
13 charge user fees.

14 e) Costs to be shouldered by families - The Council shall monitor user fees and
15 contributions allowed for both public and private ECCD programs to ensure that these
16 are affordable and within reasonable limits.

17 User fees for public programs should be limited to monthly contributions intended
18 to subsidize recurrent costs. Parents are encouraged to contribute their time and
19 services especially to cases where they are unable to afford the regular contributions.

20 **SEC 10. Appropriations.** - For the implementation of this Act the amount of
21 Five Hundred Million Pesos (₱500,000,000.00) per year for five (5) years is hereby

1 appropriated for the National ECCD Program of the ECCD Council effective upon
2 approval of this Act that shall be utilized to support the goal of achieving universal
3 ECCD coverage for all children from zero (0) to six (6) years. Said amount shall be
4 funded from the gross income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
5 and shall be directly remitted in four (4) quarterly installments to a special account of
6 the ECCD Council.

7 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the operations of the Council
8 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

9 An initial annual appropriation in the amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos
10 (₱500,000,000.00) shall be provided from to support the operations of the ECCD
11 Council upon approval of this Act.

12 Expenses for ECCD programs and technical support packages provided by the
13 DepED, DSWD, DOH and NNC shall be specified as separate line items in their
14 respective annual budgets in the General Appropriations Act. Their annual ECCD
15 workplans shall be the basis for these budgets.

16 **SEC 11. *Annual Report.*** – The ECCD Council shall, at the close of each
17 calendar year, submit an annual report to Congress, giving a detailed account of its
18 proceedings and accomplishments during the year and making recommendations for
19 the adoption of measures that will improve the National ECCD System and ensure
20 achievement of universal coverage of ECCD benefits to all children from zero (0) to six
21 (6) years within a five-year period.

1 **SEC 12. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provisions of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
3 provision thereof.

4 **SEC 13. *Repealing Clause.*** - Pertinent provisions of all laws, decrees,
5 executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof
6 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
7 modified according.

8 **SEC 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Council in consultation
9 with appropriate government agencies and nongovernment organizations shall
10 formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this
11 Act within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

12 **SEC 15. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
14 circulation.

15 Approved,