



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 80
Monday, May 9, 2011

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Prepared by the
LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL SERVICE
Senate of the Philippines

SESSION NO. 80
Monday, May 9, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:11 a.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile, called the session to order.

PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of silent prayer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled "*Lupang Hinirang*."

**MANIFESTATION
OF SENATE PRESIDENT ENRILE**

At this juncture, Senate President Enrile officially welcomed Senator Lacson back to the Senate.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Emma Lirio-Reyes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| Angara, E. J. | Lapid, M. L. M. |
| Arroyo, J. P. | Legarda, L. |
| Cayetano, P. S. | Marcos Jr., F. R. |
| Drilon, F. M. | Osmeña III, S. R. |
| Ejercito Estrada, J. | Pangilinan, F. N. |
| Enrile, J. P. | Recto, R. G. |
| Escudero, F. J. G. | Sotto III, V. C. |
| Guingona III, T. L. | Trillanes IV, A. F. |
| Honasan, G. B. | Zubiri, J. M. F. |
| Lacson, P. M. | |

With 19 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Cayetano (A) arrived after the roll call.

Senator Villar was on official mission.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

Senator Revilla was absent.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 79 (March 23, 2011) and considered it approved.

At this juncture, Senate President Enrile relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of members of the Association of Barangay Secretaries from Caoayan, Ilocos Sur.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada welcomed the guests to the Senate.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

16

**MESSAGE FROM THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 23 March 2011, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 9, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987 BY PROHIBITING A PERSON FROM BEING APPOINTED AS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE WITHIN THE NEXT THREE (3) YEARS AFTER RELIEF, SEPARATION OR RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS A COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

To the Committee on National Defense and Security

House Bill No. 78, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MARIVELES DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MARIVELES, PROVINCE OF BATAAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

House Bill No. 79, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTI-PURPOSE SPORTS CENTER IN THE CITY OF BALANGA, PROVINCE OF BATAAN TO BE KNOWN AS THE "BALANGA CITY SPORTS CENTER" AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports; and Finance

House Bill No. 164, entitled

AN ACT TO SET THE PHILIPPINE STANDARD TIME (PST) IN ALL OFFICIAL SOURCES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SYNCHRONIZED TIME DEVICES TO BE DISPLAYED IN KEY PUBLIC PLACES, AND TO DECLARE THE FIRST WEEK OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL TIME CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

House Bill No. 253, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE UPGRADE AND MODERNIZATION OF THE J.R. BORJA CITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AS AN EXTENSION HOSPITAL OF THE NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER (NMMC) IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

House Bill No. 329, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE BICOL SPORTS ACADEMY IN THE CAPITAL TOWN OF PILI IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR TO BE LOCATED IN THE FREEDOM PARK SPORTS COMPLEX AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports; and Finance

House Bill No. 425, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM BED CAPACITY OF THE ZAMBOANGA CITY MEDICAL CENTER FROM TWO HUNDRED

410 30

FIFTY (250) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7272

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

House Bill No. 797, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE COGON-KAPATAGAN PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

House Bill No. 1024, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE UPGRADE AND MODERNIZATION AS WELL AS INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE SEVERO VERALLO MEMORIAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL AT TAYTAYAN, CITY OF BOGO, PROVINCE OF CEBU FROM FIFTY (50) TO ONE HUNDRED (100)-BED CAPACITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

House Bill No. 1099, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE CITY MAYORS, MUNICIPAL MAYORS AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS FROM MAKING APPOINTMENTS TWO (2) MONTHS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE NEXT LOCAL ELECTIONS AND PENDING ASSUMPTION TO OFFICE OF THEIR SUCCESSORS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 1105, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE SHEIKH KARIMUL MAKHDUM MOSQUE,

CONSIDERED AS THE SITE OF ONE OF THE OLDEST EXISTING MUSLIM HOUSES OF PRAYER OR MOSQUES IN THE PHILIPPINES, AT TUBIG INDANGAN, SIMUNUL, PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI, AS A NATIONAL HISTORICAL LANDMARK AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 1127, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHERN LEYTE SPORTS ACADEMY IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF MAASIN IN SOUTHERN LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports; and Finance

House Bill No. 1719, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING AS AGRICULTURAL LAND CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF SURIGAO, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 1999, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A THIRTY (30)-BED HOSPITAL IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF ANTIPOLLO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE ANTIPOLLO 2ND DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

House Bill No. 2741, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE PADADA-COLUMBIO PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO

DEL SUR INTO A NATIONAL ROAD
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Works; and
Finance**

House Bill No. 3066, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING HIGATANGAN
ISLAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN A
TOURISM ZONE

To the Committee on Tourism

House Bill No. 3067, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING SAMBAWAN
ISLAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
MARIPIPI, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN
A TOURISM ZONE

To the Committee on Tourism

House Bill No. 3068, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MANGROVE
AREA OF LOOC IN THE MUNICI-
PALITY OF CABUCGAYAN, PRO-
VINCE OF BILIRAN A TOURIST
SPOT

To the Committee on Tourism

House Bill No. 3069, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING CASABANGAN
FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CABUCGAYAN, PROVINCE OF
BILIRAN A TOURIST SPOT

To the Committee on Tourism

House Bill No. 3070, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING TINAGO FALLS
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
CAIBIRAN, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN
A TOURIST SPOT

To the Committee on Tourism

House Bill No. 3071, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING BAGONGBONG
FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
ALMERIA, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN
A TOURIST SPOT

To the Committee on Tourism

House Bill No. 3088, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT
BREASTFEEDING AS AN ESSEN-
TIAL COMPONENT OF FAMILY
PLANNING AND RESPONSIBLE
PARENTHOOD, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Youth, Women and Family Rela-
tions**

House Bill No. 3282, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE GENERAL
EVANGELISTA PROVINCIAL
ROAD IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE
INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Works; and
Finance**

House Bill No. 3283, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MARCOS
ALVAREZ PROVINCIAL ROAD IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACOR,
PROVINCE OF CAVITE INTO A
NATIONAL ROAD AND PROVID-
ING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Works; and
Finance**

House Bill No. 3331, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED
CAPACITY OF JOSE B. LINGAD
MEMORIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL
IN SAN FERNANDO CITY,
PAMPANGA FROM TWO HUNDRED

FIFTY (250) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500), UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

House Bill No. 3632, entitled

AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR INTO THREE (3) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

To the Committees on Local Government; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

House Bill No. 3973, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING A PARCEL OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED IN BARANGAY STO. NIÑO, MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO AN AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

House Bill No. 4067, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN ITS GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT TO MAKE THEM MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on Rules

House Bill No. 4170, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE CATANDUANES STATE COLLEGES IN THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CATANDUANES STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 4183, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF TALISAY, PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE KNOWN AS THE TALISAY CITY STATE COLLEGE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 4205, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE 287-A REDUCING THE RETIREMENT AGE OF RACE HORSE JOCKEYS FROM SIXTY (60) TO FIFTY FIVE (55)

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

House Bill No. 4224, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INSTRUMENTALITIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR-CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCs) TO USE SECURITY PAPER IN THEIR RECEIPTS AND INVOICES, PERMITS, LICENSES, CLEARANCES, OFFICIAL PAPERS OR DOCUMENTS

To the Committee on Ways and Means

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House Bill No. 4225, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) IN THE FORMULATION OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Local Government

House Bill No. 4259, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CABUYAO IN THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CABUYAO

To the Committees on Local Government; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

House Bill No. 4276, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE NIGHTWORK PROHIBITION ON WOMEN WORKERS, THEREBY AMENDING ARTICLES 130 AND 131 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-TWO (PD 442), AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

House Bill No. 4308, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO PROVIDE A PRICE LIST OF THEIR HEALTHCARE SERVICES INCLUDING INCIDENTAL EXPENSES AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES THAT CAN BE CHARGED IN THE MEDICAL BILL

To the Committee on Health and Demography

House Bill No. 4314, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE USE AND PROTECTION OF THE RED CROSS, THE RED CRESCENT, THE RED CRYSTAL AND THE RED LION AND SUN EMBLEMS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and National Defense and Security

House Bill No. 4316, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN THE SUBDIVISION AND CONDOMINIUM BUYERS' PROTECTIVE DECREE

To the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

House Bill No. 4321, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE CAMARINES SUR POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE – NAGA CITY CAMPUS (FORMERLY BICOL COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES) IN THE CITY OF NAGA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR FROM THE CAMARINES SUR POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN NABUA, CAMARINES SUR AND CONVERTING IT INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE BICOL STATE COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 4323, entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE AND MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8534, KNOWN AS THE "PHILIP-

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PINE INTERIOR DESIGN ACT OF 1998," APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Ways and Means; and Finance

House Bill No. 4330, entitled

AN ACT REVIVING THE OBSERVANCE OF ARBOR DAY BY VESTING IN PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS THE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CELEBRATING THE DAY FOR TREE PLANTING AS AN ANNUAL EVENT

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Local Government

House Bill No. 4352, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING RETIREMENT, HEALTH CARE AND DEATH BENEFITS TO PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WIN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES IN INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS OR IN OTHER EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports; and Finance

House Bill No. 4375, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE WESTERN VISAYAS SANITARIUM AND LEPROSARIUM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. BARBARA, PROVINCE OF ILOILO INTO THE PRESIDENT DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2758, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION INTO THE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Enrile

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2759, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS IN GROCERIES, RESTAURANTS, AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 2760, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CIVIL SERVICE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2761, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF IMUS IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF IMUS

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Rules

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Senate Bill No. 2762, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE TRUST FUND TO BE UTILIZED FOR THE PNP PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS HEREIN SPECIFIED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2763, entitled

AN ACT RESTRUCTURING THE EXCISE TAX ON ALCOHOL PRODUCTS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2764, entitled

AN ACT RESTRUCTURING THE EXCISE TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2765, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES OF BARANGAY TANOD MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENDERED AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF SERVICE IN THE BARANGAY GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2766, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6963, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE FAMILY OR BENEFICIARY OF ANY POLICE OR MILITARY PERSONNEL OR FIREMAN KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY OR BY REASON OF HIS OFFICE OR POSITION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; National Defense and Security; Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2767, entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1405 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SECRECY OF BANK DEPOSITS LAW," EXEMPTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FROM THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF OR INQUIRY INTO DEPOSITS WITH ANY BANKING INSTITUTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 2768, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND POPULATION MANAGEMENT COUNCIL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED POLICY ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RELATIVE TO SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND POPULATION MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2769, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT INVESTORS BY IMPROVING THE ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF CORPORATE FINANCIAL REPORTING AND DISCLOSURES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2770, entitled

AN ACT PROFESSIONALIZING THE PRACTICE OF CIVIL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED FIVE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR (RA NO. 544), AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 2771, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF PRE-PAID SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS, PROVIDING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 2772, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL

INSURANCE BENEFITS TO BARANGAY CAPTAINS, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF ITS PREMIUMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2773, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE ACADEMY (PAFA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2774, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL REFERENCE CARD SYSTEM AND CREATING THEREFORE THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2775, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE CONFERMENT OF A MASTERAL DEGREE AS EQUIVALENT TO PROFESSIONAL ELIGIBILITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 2776, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN LAND ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2777, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS, GENERATION COMPANIES OR ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPERS TO REMIT THE AMOUNT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO SET ASIDE AS FINANCIAL BENEFIT DIRECTLY TO THE HOST COMMUNITY

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Energy; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 2778, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE CONFERENCE OF A DOCTORATE DEGREE AS EQUIVALENT TO ENTRY LEVEL CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE OFFICER ELIGIBILITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 2779, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY SALARY OF CONTRACTUAL WORKERS BY FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THEIR MONTHLY AND/OR DAILY COMPENSATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 2780, entitled

AN ACT DECENTRALIZING THE

TEXTBOOK PROCUREMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) BY CREATING A DIVISION TEXTBOOK PROCUREMENT SERVICES UNIT (DTPSU) IN ALL PROVINCIAL AND CITY DIVISION OFFICES INCLUDING THOSE IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM) REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF R.A. NO. 8047 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2781, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THAT EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM AND THE CONSEQUENT PREPARATION OF TEXTBOOKS AND RELATED MATERIALS SHOULD HAVE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY, AND THAT THE SAME SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX (6) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 8047, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 2782, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF BONA FIDE PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS AND NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ANNUAL NATIONAL BUDGET HEARINGS IN CONGRESS AND BUDGET DELIBERATIONS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE MECHANISMS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Finance; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 2783, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ACT OF 2001," AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 2784, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE PAYMENT OF ALL RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO ALL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE EMPLOYEES ON THE DATE OF THEIR RETIREMENT

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 2785, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997" AND INSTITUTIONALIZING REFORMS AND CORRECTIVE MEASURES IN THE COLLECTION AND REMITTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF GSIS PREMIUMS

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 2786, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF FIREARMS SMUGGLING, PROVID-

ING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2787, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN REAL PROPERTY VALUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, REORGANIZING THE BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Ways and Means; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2788, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF OIL AND GAS PIPELINES, CREATING THE NATIONAL PIPELINE BOARD FOR THE PURPOSE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Public Services; Energy; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2789, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF BICYCLES AS ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AND ESTABLISH BIKE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Public Services; Local Government; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 439, entitled

RESOLUTION CREATING AN OVER-

SIGHT COMMITTEE ON BASES CONVERSION THAT WILL EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (BCDA) AND MAKE THE PROPER LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 440, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED DETERIORATION OF THE IFUGAO RICE TERRACES, A WORLD HERITAGE SITE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PRESERVE THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Environment and Natural Resources

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 441, entitled:

RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION XXI OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ON IMPEACHMENT TRIALS

Introduced by Senators Pangilinan, Guingona III and Osmeña III

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 442, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO BOXER DENVER "THE EXCITEMENT" CUELLO FOR SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING HIS WBC INTERNATIONAL MINIMUM WEIGHT TITLE FROM THAI BOXER SAMAT CHAIYONG IN

ANGONO, RIZAL, PHILIPPINES
ON 26 MARCH 2011

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 443, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO PURSUE THE CONVENING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TO ADDRESS MATTERS AFFECTING OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN SAUDI ARABIA, INCLUDING THE RECENT ISSUE ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE PROCESSING AND VERIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS BY FILIPINO DOMESTIC WORKERS BOUND FOR SAUDI ARABIA, AND OTHER MEASURES TO EXPAND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Foreign Relations

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 27, submitted by the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations, on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 337, introduced by Senator Cayetano (A.P.), entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE) AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE PLEA BARGAINING AGREE-

AS *YS*

MENT BY AND BETWEEN GOVERNMENT PROSECUTORS AND GENERAL CARLOS GARCIA WHO IS CHARGED WITH PLUNDER WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO CURTAIL CORRUPTION AND PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE GOVERNMENT;

and Privilege Speech of Senator JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA delivered on 19 January 2011,

recommending its approval.

Sponsor: Senator Guingona III

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 28, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement, on Senate Bill No. 2757, with Senators Trillanes IV and Marcos Jr. as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN REAL ESTATE SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9646, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REAL ESTATE SERVICE ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 2626.

Sponsor: Senator Trillanes IV

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 29, submitted by the Committee on Energy, on Senate Joint Resolution No. 9, introduced by Senators Osmeña III, Escudero, Guingona III, Honasan II, Arroyo, Defensor Santiago and Legarda, entitled

RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE PERIOD OF EXISTENCE OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL POWER COMMISSION,

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Osmeña III

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from Representative Niel C. Tupas Jr., Chairman, Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives, dated 4 May 2011, manifesting that the Committee received copies of the resignation letter of Ombudsman Merceditas N. Gutierrez and the letter of acceptance of said resignation by His Excellency, President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III, and in view of this development, submits that the impeachment trial has become moot and academic.

To the Committee on Rules

COMMUNICATION

Letter from the Office of the President of the Philippines, dated 2 May 2011, furnishing the Senate with copies of the resignation letter of Ombudsman Merceditas N. Gutierrez and the acceptance letter of His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III.

To the Committee on Rules

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 31, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations; Finance; and Local Government, on Senate Bill No. 2802, with Senators Ejercito Estrada, Defensor Santiago and Angara as authors thereof, 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

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THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, RENAMING THE DAY CARE CENTER AS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

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

Sponsor: Senator Angara

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 105

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered *House Resolution No. 105*, entitled

RESOLUTION IMPEACHING OMBUDSMAN MA. MERCEDITAS NAVARRO GUTIERREZ FOR BETRAYAL OF PUBLIC TRUST.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Preliminarily, Senator Sotto stated that last March 23, 2011, the day House Resolution No. 105 was referred to the Committee on Rules, Senate President Enrile officially informed House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte that the Senate was prepared to receive the House prosecutors at two o'clock in the afternoon of May 9, 2011.

Senator Sotto noted, however, that on April 29, 2011, Ombudsman Gutierrez tendered her resignation effective at the close of office hours on May 6, 2011, and the President, on the same day, accepted it through Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa Jr.; and on May 4, 2011, the House prosecution panel wrote the Senate to inform that the House Committee on Justice had received from the Speaker copies of the resignation letter of Ombudsman Gutierrez and the President's letter of acceptance and in view of the development, it felt that the impeachment trial has become moot and academic. Accordingly, he

stated that there was no longer need for the Senate to convene as an impeachment court that afternoon.

**ARCHIVING
OF HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 105**

Thereafter, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair sent House Resolution No. 105 to the Archives.

**CHANGE OF SCHEDULE
OF PLENARY SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the reversion of the plenary session to its original time as provided for in Section 40 of the Rules of the Senate.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS

Upon nomination by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Senator Lacson was elected chair of the Committee on National Defense and Security and the Committee on Accounts.

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 31 on Senate Bill No. 2802 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 31
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2802**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Senate Bill No. 2802 (Committee Report No. 31), 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.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon

motion of Senator Sotto, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Angara for his sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ANGARA

Senator Angara stated that the long-overdue measure, Senate Bill No. 2802, was principally authored by Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada, Senator Defensor Santiago and himself.

Following is the full text of his speech:

About a month from now, a new school year will begin and about 14 million pupils will enroll in 45 public and private elementary schools. Another seven million will enter the secondary level – high school – in 10,000 schools, and 1.7 million five-year olds will begin kindergarten pursuant to DepEd's directives to offer it at the beginning of this school year.

That is quite an impressive figure, but on the other side of the coin 2.5 million children will not even touch the doors of any school because they will not be enrolled in school at all.

Furthermore, of the 14 million elementary pupils, more than 800,000 or 6.28%, dropped out during the school years 2009 and 2010, according to the DepEd. Remember that 800,000 dropped out during the last school year.

Among our seven million high school students, more than half a million or 500,000 also left school or dropped out. But the biggest drop in enrollment occurs between Grades I, II and III. Why? Because at the age bracket of seven to nine years old, the kids suffer either from very poor health or severe nutritional deficiencies, very serious learning gaps or a combination of all. Consequently, four million children are forced to leave school because they are not school-ready. They have not been prepared either at home or at an early child care center. The result is, we are sacrificing almost four million pupils every year.

Let us look at the enrollment data. Grade I enrolment for school year 2008-2009 was 1.1 million for six-year olds, 1.1 for seven-year olds, and almost 600,000 for the overage bracket.

What does that suggest? It suggests that a Grade I pupil is not necessarily six-years old.

They can range from age six to 11, and that reflects the erratic and unstable enrollment of our young kids in primary school, and that explains why we have so many out-of-school kids in the country.

But why are we suffering such a severe drop-out rate whereas our neighbors are almost achieving 100% participation rate? Simply because of gross neglect. We are unsuccessful in instilling in parents and families the value of education. We keep mouthing, we keep hearing this rhetoric: "Education is the highest Filipino value." That is not true because it is not reflected in the practice of many families, especially in the rural sector and in the overall mix of policies that policymakers, like us, put together every year.

Why are our school system unable to keep them in school? The same: We do not take care of the most critical years of a child's development.

What is the most critical year of a child's development?

Here we are supported by volumes and volumes of brain scientist studies, neuroscience studies and pedagogical studies—that **the most vital year of brain development occurs between ages 0 to 5. In other words, learning begins at birth.** And the learning pathways in the brain are formed from 0 to six years. In other words, almost half or sometimes even more than half of what a five-year old child or six-year old child will carry into adulthood is what has been taught to him by teachers and parents during the first five years of his life. That is according to the most modern studies.

Look at the brain development chart. At age 10, half of the brain is pruned, leaving an average child with 500-trillion neurons that last through most of his life. Neuron is the one that connects the brain cells to each other that reflects emotion, sentiment, action, movement, all that we do as human beings on earth. The neurons are the connectors of our brains.

At age eight, another 30% is developed. In other words, at age 4, 50% of a person's ability to learn is developed. At age eight, 80% is already developed. And therefore, all future learning is based on the early years of brain development.

We cannot blame educators and education-ists for our failure to recognize this scientific fact too late in the day because this discovery has happened only in the past two or three decades. The development and progress of neuroscience or brain science occurred only in the past two or

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three decades and the documentation and literature is full of this finding. And it is only now in the Philippines that we are trying to reflect and capture this very fundamental educational fact.

Other countries are so far ahead. In fact, way back in the early '80s, the University of the Philippines already recognized this and they have a pioneering child development center which teaches children aged three to six.

There are 17 million Filipino children aged 0 to 6; 9.5 million of them are under three-years old; 7.5 million between ages three to six are enrolled in day care centers, preschool and Grade I classes. But only four out of 10 of these Filipino kids aged 0 to six received some form of early care and education. And most of these kids belong to the more affluent, the more financially-able parents and parents who have the natural tendency and inclination to send their kids, as early as possible, to early education development centers.

We have established day care centers, I think, 50 years ago. In fact, we are pioneering in that sense. But these day care centers are not learning-oriented. They are more play-oriented for the children so that their parents can work at peace and uninterrupted, and some child-minders can take care of the physical and mental stimulation of the kid.

Now, less than 2% of every 10 Filipino kids, again, are part of this early program that stimulates brain development. Two out of 10.

Now, the other scientific fact that we know now is that the brain must be physically stimulated from 0 to five. That is the challenge that we Filipinos must now confront because we do not have that kind of stimulation for the Filipino child. Therefore, to make it more understandable, making the Filipino child school-ready is our greatest challenge in education today because unless we do this, we will continue to produce two classes of Filipinos: the educated and the literate and the uneducated and illiterate. And that translates to economic classes of rich and poor or middle class. The poor will always be under the category of the uneducated and the illiterate.

Now, what this bill proposes is to rationalize the structure, the curriculum, the professionalization of those teaching early childhood education; and define very clearly in the law the source of financing for saving our children. Curriculum development is a holistic one that takes care not only of the learning needs of the

child but also of his health which involves his nutrition and social development.

The personnel currently handling the education of the young children in our school need some urgent upgrading of their competencies and capabilities. And this bill proposes to do that because of those currently handling our kids, about 50,000 day care workers or 50% are college graduates although not education graduates. What we intend to do is transform the day care centers into child development centers to emphasize the holistic type of development we want a Filipino child to get rather than just a play-oriented thing. We want a child's brain development to be continuously stimulated for brain development.

The Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCDC) is at the center of the bureaucracy, and this is the policy-making arm of the whole program. And the campaign, as put there, is to help young children develop their intelligence, personality and behavior, and enhance their success in school.

The major pillar of the early childhood development system is the parents. The parents are always at the center of a child's brain development. Without the active participation of parents, I do not believe that childhood care and development will succeed whether at home or at day care centers. Of course, we need the participation of national agencies like DepEd, DOH, DSWD and the National Nutrition Council to reflect the national holistic aspects of the child's development. They will automatically be members of the ECCD system. We are proposing that the local government units (LGUs) now begin to spend their IRA on social development programs that will help their own communities, like early childhood development, rather than build all those waiting sheds that may not contribute to the physical well-being of their constituents but may just simply beautify the locality. We want a gradual shift in mindset towards social development of their constituency.

These are now the recognized five cycles of educational development: Cycle 1 – the foundation cycle for age group 0-6 where we must now begin to introduce learning techniques and learning into the child's head; Cycle 2 is the elementary education cycle which is age 6-12; Cycle 3, the high school cycle which is age 12-18; Cycle 4, the higher education or the tertiary level for 18-24; and the Cycle 5, which is the continuing education cycle.

Every person has the potential to become a life-long learner, provided we stimulate and

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encourage his brain development at youth or even at infancy to remain exploring, curious and asking questions. Do not spank a child if he asks too many questions because that is a natural technique for learning things. Even if they break some of our precious possessions, do not spank them. The thing is, we must hide or protect our precious holdings so that our children will not break them. *But that is a sign that a child is really born to be curious, born to be an explorer, born to be a learner.* And we must encourage and cultivate that kind of natural instinct among our children. And that is the cycle.

Therefore, enacting that Early Years Act authored by the Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago and this Representation, is not only timely, I think it is long overdue. We may be losing in the competition race economically because we are unable to address a very basic aspect of social development which is the education of the child.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto informed the Body that Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada would be delivering his cosponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 2802.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ENRILE

Preliminarily, Senate President Enrile noted that under the Constitution, education is supposed to get the biggest part of the annual appropriations for various government programs.

Asked by Senate President Enrile how much was appropriated in 2011 for education, Senator Angara replied it was P230 million.

Asked how much money is necessary to cover the cost of Cycle 1, Senator Angara replied that the initial cost is P500 million annually for the next five years.

To the observation that the amount is so little compared to the amount needed to cover Cycles 2 and 3 considering that Cycle 1 is supposed to be the stage where the most rapid learning development of the child occurs, Senator Angara explained that the physical infrastructure is not as huge as the outlay for elementary and high school because there are already existing day care centers that would be converted into child development centers. He pointed

out that there are 49,000 day care centers at present and the number is sufficient to cover the 44,000 barangays in the Philippines. He said that the main spending would be P300 million for an additional 100 national child development centers.

But Senate President Enrile pointed out that the population in a barangay in the urban centers is compact whereas the barangays in far-flung areas have widely dispersed households. He asked how the bill would address this particular concern, pointing out that in one town alone in the northeastern corner of Luzon, at least 1,000 families live in the Pacific side and do not have access to land transportation.

Senator Angara stressed that there are day care centers in 90% of the barangays all over the country, and the establishment of additional 100 day care centers would address the remaining 10%. He added that under this scheme, the national government will use part of the P500 million to fund the development of a new curriculum for genuine learning centers, and training for the teachers.

Asked who will bring a three-year old child to the day care center which is situated in a far-flung area, Senator Angara replied that it will be the parent or sibling of the child, and he assumed that the day care center is most likely within walking distance from their homes.

Senate President Enrile pointed out that there are many barangays which are located in the far-flung areas of the country. He maintained that the problem is not the lack of classrooms but the location of a particular barangay. Senator Angara gave the assurance that he will ensure equitable allocations.

Asked whether under the bill, the State would assume the responsibility of providing food, nutrition, medicine, health care and spiritual education to children, Senator Angara stated that nutrition and values education among children will be promoted. Senate President Enrile explained that he raised the question to alert the Members to study the bill very carefully as there might be many difficult areas which cannot be met upon the implementation of the proposed law.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2802

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE
COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS**

Nominated by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Senator Lacson was elected member of the Commission on Appointments vice Senator Honasan.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE
BILL NO. 2640 AND HOUSE BILL NO. 4067**

Upon nomination by Senator Drilon, there being no objection, the Chair designated the following to constitute the Senate panel in the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2640 and House Bill No. 4067: Senator Drilon as chair, and Senators Angara, Osmeña, Recto and Cayetano (A) as members.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 439

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 439, entitled

**RESOLUTION CREATING AN OVER-
SIGHT COMMITTEE ON BASES
CONVERSION THAT WILL EVA-
LUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF
THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOP-
MENT AUTHORITY (BCDA) AND
MAKE THE PROPER LEGISLATIVE
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING
THE SAME.**

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its text into the Record of the Senate.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 439**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 439 was adopted by the Body.

COAUTHOR

Upon his request, Senator Escudero was made coauthor of Senate Bill No. 2751.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO


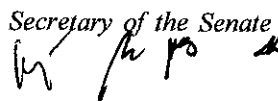
On behalf of the Members, Senator Sotto congratulated Senator Zubiri for graduating with the degree of Masters in Environment and Natural Resources Management at the University of the Philippines-Open University in Los Baños last May 7, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Senate President Pro Tempore declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

It was 11:33 a.m.

I hereby, certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO REYES
Secretary of the Senate


Approved on May 10, 2011