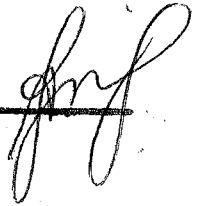


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUN 30 P12:55

SENATE
S.B. NO. 93

RECEIVED BY: _____



Introduced by Senator LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 provides:

"The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development."

Brain development research shows that the first three years of a child's life are critical to his brain development and future success. Thus, high quality early learning programs are needed in order to develop his language and cognitive skills.

This bill seeks to establish early learning programs for indigent pre-kindergarten children, in order to provide them with high quality, child-centered, developmentally appropriate educational programs.

In consideration thereof, early approval of this bill is earnestly solicited.



LUISA "LOI" PEJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE
S.B. NO. 93

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Introduced by Senator LUISA "LOI" P. EJERCITO ESTRADA

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

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

SEC. 1. Short title. - This Act shall be known as the "Early Learning Trust Fund Act".

SEC. 2. *Purposes.* - The purposes of this Act are-

- (1) to make widely available to pre-kindergarten children a high quality, child centered, developmentally appropriate early learning program;
- (2) to make widely available to parents of pre-kindergarten children who desire the services, a program in which they can enroll their pre-kindergarten children; and
- (3) to provide resources to ensure that all children enter elementary school ready to learn how to read and write.

SEC 3. *Definitions.* - In this Act --

- (1) *Early Learning Programs* - The term "early learning programs" means programs that provide services that are for children who have not attended kindergarten or elementary school. Such programs are designed to provide indigent pre-kindergarten children with a high quality, child-centered,

developmentally appropriate learning program and with resources to ensure that all children enter elementary school ready to learn how to read and write.

(2) *Parent*- The term 'parent' means a biological parent, an adoptive parent, a stepparent, or a foster parent of a child, including a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis.

(3) *Secretary* – The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd).

SEC. 4. *Early learning program.* - The Secretary shall establish and maintain an early learning program that provides learning services in every city or municipality. The program shall --

(a) be developed pursuant to guidance provided by the educational authorities, and experts in early childhood development; and

(b) be designed to improve child development through --

(i) improved access to and increased coordination with health care services;

(ii) increased access to enhanced early learning environments

(iii) increased parental involvement;

The program shall be designed to service pre-kindergarten children, including those with special needs, who shall receive enhanced educational and comprehensive services and supports, through parent involvement and education;

SEC. 5. *Assessment.* - The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the early childhood programs established and conduct needs and resources assessment, and use such an assessment to-

(i) determine where early learning programs are lacking or are inadequate within a given city or municipality , with particular attention to poor urban and rural areas, and what special services are needed; and

(ii) specify which programs might be expanded or upgraded with the use of funds received under this Act.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC.9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

GVL/pink disk3/prekindergarten