THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Regular Session

JUN 30 P2:51

SENATE

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Universal access to quality education is enshrined in the Philippine Constitution. The national priority on education is re-enforced by the fact that in the present era, knowledge has become the main source of wealth, especially in advanced economies. Countries whose citizens display a high intelligence quotient in terms of literacy and proficiency in the sciences, technology and management have reaped the highest economic rewards worldwide.

It is well known that at the tertiary level, the opportunity cost of time constitutes the highest cost of education. Most students cannot go to college because they need to start working at a job to contribute to the family income.

This bill seeks the adoption and institutionalization of an "open tertiary An "open" school deviates from the graded, education" system in the Philippines. structured and class-attended formal system in that it makes use of radio, television, print media, audio and video equipment and other forms of instruction that may occur at a place and pace of study determined by the student himself. Hence, the student does not necessarily have to forego the chance of earning a living while he pursues a college education.

This bill seeks to reduce the effective cost of a college education to a great number of our young students by allowing them to economize on their time. This bill is a measure that will empower higher investments in education and improve the future for our people.

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

SÉRGIO OSMEÑA III

Senator

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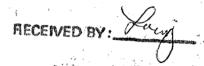
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SENATE

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s. No. <u>220</u>



Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN LEARNING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

- Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Open and Distance Learning System of Education Act."
- Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared a policy of the

 State to expand and further democratized educational opportunities for our

 people in a more effective and economical manner through utilization of

 innovative educational technologies. In view thereof, the State recognizes the

 open and distance learning system as a necessary mode to achieve equitable

 access to quality tertiary education even as it guarantees the academic freedom

 of higher education institutions.
 - **Sec. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* For the purposes of this Act the following terms shall mean:
 - a) Open Learning System an institutionalized system of delivery of educational services that allows for wider access to education opportunities by overcoming barriers resulting from geographical isolation, and personal or work commitments.
 - b) Distance Education a method of learning and teaching employing print, radio, television, computer-based communications, satellite

I	broadcasting, teleconferencing or other educational technologies, that
2	allows students to study on their own without having to regularly
3	attend classes in conventional classrooms.

Sec. 4. Institutionalization of the Open and Distance Learning

System. –The open and distance learning system, hereinafter referred to as the

System is hereby institutionalized in the Philippines in accordance with the

provisions of this Act.

Sec. 5. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to public and private higher education institutions with existing open and distance learning programs, and to other institutions that shall later be authorized as qualified implementors of the System.

Sec. 6. Role of the Commission on Higher Education. – The Commission on Higher Education, hereinafter referred to as the CHED, shall plan, set standards, coordinate, monitor and authorize the effective implementation of open learning and distance education in the country in accordance with the provisions of this Act., It shall:

- a) Formulate, promulgate and implement the necessary rules and regulations to maintain the same quality of education and uniform standards of performance for both distance and residential students of participating higher education institutions;
- Monitor, evaluate and effect the continuation or closure of programs in accordance with the provisions of the implementing rules and regulations;
- c) Review and approve proposals from educational institutions for new open learning and distance education programs; and
- d) Recommend to the Department of Budget and Management supplemental budget for open learning and distance education programs of participating higher education institutions;

- Sec. 7. Criteria for Commission on Higher Education's Approval of

 New Open and Distance Education Programs. Higher education institutions

 applying for CHED's approval to establish open and distance learning programs

 shall be evaluated based on the following criteria, among others, to be defined

 by the CHED:
 - a) Qualified faculty with experience and/or training in open and distance education;
 - b) Relevant curricular programs;

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- c) Appropriate instructional materials;
 - d) Appropriate student support services and delivery systems;
 - e) Linkages with other appropriate institutions as resource centers; and
 - f) Recognized research program on open and distance learning.
 - Sec. 8. Role of the University of the Philippines Open University. The University of the Philippines Open University, hereinafter referred to as UPOU, shall be designated as the national open university. It shall set up the model programs, undertake relevant research and development projects, assist other interested higher education institutions in developing open learning and distance education programs, and provide technical assistance to the CHED in open learning and distance education matters.
 - Sec. 9. Role of Government Broadcast Stations and Telecommunications Network. Government broadcast stations and telecommunications networks shall provide the necessary assistance and cooperation in support of the System.
 - Sec. 10. *Tax Incentives.* Private entities, such as broadcast stations, telecommunications networks and others, which shall provide appropriate materials, time and services to the System shall be given corresponding tax credits equivalent of the commercial value of their respective contribution to the System in accordance with rules and regulations to be promulgated by CHED in consultation with the Department of Finance.

- Sec. 11. Appropriations. For the initial implementation of this Act, the amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) from the President's organization fund shall be divided equally between the CHED and UPOU. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continuous implementation of this program by the CHED and UPOU shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.
 - **Sec. 12.** *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.
 - **Sec. 13.** Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
 - Sec. 14. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,