

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

SENATE

S. No. 569

July

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE


Studies have shown that in the Philippines, though laws have been enacted to promote free education for our children, there is still an alarming increase in the number of drop-outs.

Student drop-out is mainly caused by poverty, poor health, long distance from house to school and inefficient teaching among others.

This bill aims to curb the number of school drop-outs by institutionalizing a program that will strengthen the influence of the school on our youth and by the establishment of youth centers in schools.

The said program is hoped to solve the problems of inefficient teaching and students' loss of interest.

For the future of our country, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

SENATE

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**AN ACT INSTITUTING THE VOLUNTEER AID TO SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN
(VASAC) PROGRAM IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AROUND THE COUNTRY
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF.**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* -This Act shall be known as the " Voluntary Aid to School Age
Children (VASAC) Program."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*- Recognizing the vital role of the youth in
nation building, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to stop the alarming
increase in school leavers (drop-outs) in the public elementary school and to
strengthen the influence or holding power of schools on our children.

SECTION 3. *Voluntary Aid to School Age Children (VASAC) Program.*- The VASAC
Program is hereby instituted in all public elementary schools around the country. It
shall provide honorarium and technical assistance to designated teachers who shall be
called SCHOOL WELFARE WORKERS. These workers shall organize the JUNIOR
VASAC which shall be composed of gifted or bright children representing each
curricular level.

The School Welfare Workers and the Junior VASAC shall compose the team, in
a public elementary school, that shall give tutorial work to slow learners and prevent
school drop-outs. The School Welfare Workers together with accredited NGOs and
concerned organizations shall organize projects that will redound to the benefit of
potential failures or drop-outs. Accredited VASAC trainers shall hold programs and
seminars for the teams.

SECTION 4. *Components of the VASAC Program.*- The Program shall be divided
into three (3) components as follows:

- a. *Each- One-Teach-One Project.* In this activity, the School Welfare Workers
identify potential failures and drop-outs and tap bright students in the
appropriate grade level as Junior VASAC. The Junior VASAC guides and
tutors the potential failures/drop-Outs on a one-on-one basis. It shall be
made under the supervision and guidance of the School Welfare Worker.

- b. *Youth Enriching Centers*- A community survey undertaken to assess problems and issues affecting the school community. Retired teachers and accredited NGOs shall be tapped to organize a center within the school community to address the problems and issues affecting it. Projects that will redound to the benefit of potential failures and drop-outs shall be organized and supervised by these persons. Junior VASACs may also help in this activity.
- c. *Delayed Marriage Project*.- The thrust of this activity shall be the adolescent students in the school. Lectures and seminars and information materials shall be provided them as to the disadvantages of early and teenage marriages and the advantages of a college degree and the like

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*.- The Secretary of Education Culture and Sports shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act, not later than one (1) year from the passage of the Act.

SECTION 6. *Appropriation*.- The amount necessary for the operation of the Voluntary Aid to School Age Children Program shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Department of Education Culture and Sports. Thereafter such sums as maybe necessary for its continued operations shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause*.- If any part of this Act is rendered invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof shall remain valid and effective.

SECTION 8. *Repealing; Clause*.- All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity*.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in 2 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,