

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

'04 JUN 30 P7:40

SENATE

S. No. 577

RECEIVED BY: *Sedes*

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The recognition of the right to quality education imposes upon the State the corresponding duty to protect and promote it. The State must take steps to make quality education at all levels generally accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means and, in particular, by the establishment and maintenance of free education at least up to the high school level.

With the advancement in technology that made information accessible to many, it is unfortunate that there are still hundreds of municipalities that have no public high school. Students have to climb hills and mountains and cross rivers to get to school.

The situation is made worse by the overcrowding of public high schools, which adversely affects the quality of education.

Hence, this bill seeks to address the inaccessibility of education by establishing public high school in every municipality.

In view of the foregoing, urgent passage of this bill is recommended.

  
MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY,**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State shall give priority to education, protect and promote the right of all citizens to duality education at all levels and take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

SECTION 2. *Coverage.* - There shall be established a public high school in every municipality beginning next school year, following the approval of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Admission.* - Priority in admission, as to students, teachers and school personnel, to the municipal public high school, shall be given to the residents of such municipality.

SECTION 4. *Expenses.* - The National Government shall provide the necessary expenses to operate a municipal public high school including all expenses relative thereto. It shall be given preference to those municipalities, where no high school exists whether public or private. Any advance to the necessary expenses made by such municipality, shall be always subject to reimbursement by the National Government.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary of the Department or Education, together with the Department of Budget and Management, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for tile speedy and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations* - The amount necessary to implement this Act is hereby appropriated: Provided, That the amount necessary to carry this Act in subsequent years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the Department of Education.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*