

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

'04 JUN 30 P9:39

SENATE

S. No. 663

RECEIVED BY: *John*

---

---

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

---

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

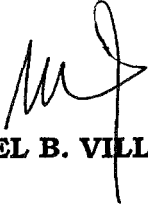
The differently-abled have long been deprived of attention by a society pre-occupied with so many other concerns.

This proposed measure aims to push for more programs and policies for the differently-abled, in order to integrate this important sector into the social, political, economic and cultural mainstream of our society, by providing free education for them during their formative years.

The government is hereby tasked to take the lead in providing educational services for free, especially to the impoverished who do not have the means to pay for specialized education of differently-abled children.

By orienting these children of their potentials at an early age, they shall be able to overcome their handicap and boost their self-esteem.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this measure is fervently sought.

  
**MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.**

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

'04 JUN 30 P9:39

SENATE

S. No. 663

RECEIVED BY: *Jlv*

---

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

---

**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FREE AND SUITABLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR**  
**HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

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

SECTION 1. It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels of education and to make appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. It shall promote non-formal, informal, and indigenous and out of school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs, the disabled and the handicapped. Towards this end, the State shall provide a free and suitable public education for differently-abled children under a special education program with the end in view of insuring their survival and advancement and making them productive partners for national development.

SECTION 2. It shall be the purposes of this Act to:

- a) Establish a special education program that shall cater to the needs of the differently-abled, and the mentally and physically handicapped;
- b) Provide full financial and educational assistance to differently-abled children of the country; and
- c) Help the development and rehabilitation of differently-abled children through said special education program.

SECTION 3. For purposes of this Act the following shall mean:

- a) A differently-abled child is one who has not yet reached the age of majority, not gainfully employed and suffering from severe physical, mental or psychological defect as determined by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) or the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

- b) A suitable public education refers to a course, profession, skill or program prescribed by the DECS to a differently-abled child taking into consideration the child's aptitude handicap and talents.

SECTION 4. A special education center shall, whenever possible, be established in the provincial, city and municipal levels for this purpose. Said special education center shall, as much as possible, provide for pre-elementary and elementary levels of education with maximum opportunities for integration with non-handicapped peers.

SECTION 5. The benefits that will be given to qualified differently-abled child shall include tuition fees, textbook allowance, transportation allowance, and ambulatory equipment or devices as may be necessary. Special services such as note-takers and readers for the blind, sign interpreters for the deaf and tutorial instruction shall also be offered.

SECTION 6. A Special Education Development Fund is hereby established with an initial capital outlay of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000) to be taken from the appropriations for the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter such sum as may be necessary for its continued operations and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are contrary to the provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended and modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. If any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*