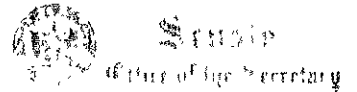


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



DEC 22 P4:12

SENATE  
S. B. No. **2534**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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AN ACT  
TO PROVIDE FOR DIGITAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS<sup>1</sup>

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.

In 1994, the US Congress and the Department of Education collaborated to make a long-term, meaningful, and public investment in the principle that high-quality pre-school television programming will help children be ready to learn by the time children entered first grade.

The Ready-to-Learn Television Program through Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and local public television stations has proven to be extremely cost-effective national response to improving early childhood development and helping parents, caregivers, and professional child care providers learn how to use television as a means to help children learn, develop, and play creatively.

Independent research shows that parents who participate in Ready-To-Learn workshops are more critical consumers of television and their children are more active viewers. A University of Alabama study showed that parents who have attended a Ready-To-Learn workshop read more books and stories to their children and read more

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<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

minutes each time than non-attendees. The parents did more hands-on activities related to reading with their children. The parents engaged in more word activities and for more minutes each time. The parents read less for entertainment and more for education. The parents took their children to libraries and bookstores more than non-attendees.

Further, six (6) months after participating in Ready-To-Learn workshops, parents who attended generally had set rules for television viewing by their children. These rules related to the amount of time the children were allowed to watch television daily, the hours the children were allowed to watch television, and the tasks or chores the children must have accomplished before the children were allowed to watch television.

Hence, this bill seeks to incorporate ready-to-learn television programming in the country by forging partnership between the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports and eligible television and broadcasting entities in order to develop, produce, and distribute educational and instructional video programming for preschool and elementary school children and their parents.

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEC 22 12

SENATE  
S. B. No. 2534

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

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AN ACT  
TO PROVIDE FOR DIGITAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Digital Education Act.”

SECTION 2. *Ready-To-Learn digital television.* –

(1) IN GENERAL – The Secretary of Education is authorized to award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, eligible television and broadcasting entities to develop, produce, and distribute educational and instructional video programming for pre-school and elementary school children and their parents, patterned after the Ready-To-Learn television program in the United States.

(2) AVAILABILITY – In making such grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, the Secretary shall ensure that eligible entities make programming widely available, with support materials as appropriate, to young children, their parents, and childcare workers.

SECTION 3. *Educational programming.* –

(1) AWARDS -- The Secretary shall award grants, contracts, cooperative agreements to eligible entities to --

1 (A) facilitate the development directly, or through contracts with  
2 producers of children and family educational television programming, of –

3 (i) educational programming for pre-school and elementary  
4 school children; and

5 (ii) accompanying support materials and services that promote  
6 the effective use of such programming;

7 (B) facilitate the development of programming and digital content  
8 especially designed for nationwide distribution over public television  
9 stations' digital broadcasting channels and Internet, containing Ready-to-  
10 Learn-based children's programming and resources for parents and  
11 caregivers; and

12 (C) enable eligible entities to contract with entities (such as public  
13 telecommunications entities) so that programs developed under this section  
14 are disseminated and distributed –

15 (i) to the widest possible audience appropriate to be served  
16 by the programming; and

17 (ii) by the most appropriate distribution technologies.

18 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES – To be eligible to receive a grant, contract, or  
19 cooperative agreement under subsection (1), an entity shall be –

20 (A) a public telecommunications entity that is able to demonstrate  
21 a capacity for the development and national distribution of educational and  
22 instructional television programming of high quality for preschool and  
23 elementary school children; and

1 (B)able to demonstrate a capacity to contract with the producers of  
2 children's television programming for the purpose of developing  
3 educational television programming of high quality for preschool and  
4 elementary school children

5 (3) CULTURAL EXPERIENCES – Programming developed under this  
6 section shall reflect the recognition of diverse cultural experiences and the needs and  
7 experiences of both boys and girls in engaging and preparing young children for  
8 schooling.

9 SECTION 4. *Duties of the Secretary.* – (1) To award grants, contracts, or  
10 cooperative agreements to eligible entities, local public television stations, or community-  
11 based organizations of demonstrated effectiveness, for the purpose of –

12 (A) addressing the learning needs of young children in limited  
13 English proficient households, and developing appropriate educational and  
14 instructional television programming to foster the school readiness of such  
15 children;

16 (B)developing programming and support materials to increase  
17 family literacy skills among parents to assist parents in teaching their  
18 children and utilizing educational television programming to promote  
19 school readiness; and

20 (C)developing and disseminating training materials, including –

21 (i) interactive programs and programs adaptable to distance  
22 learning technologies that are designed to enhance knowledge of  
23 children's social and cognitive skill development and positive adult-  
24 child interactions; and

1 (ii) support materials to promote the effective use of materials  
2 developed under subparagraph (B) among parents, early childhood  
3 development personnel, elementary school teachers, public libraries,  
4 and after-school program personnel caring for preschool and  
5 elementary school children;

6 (2) to establish within the Department a clearing-house to compile and  
7 provide information, referrals, and model program materials and programming obtained  
8 or developed under this part to parents, child care providers, and other appropriate  
9 individuals or entities to assist such individuals and entities in accessing programs and  
10 projects under this part.

11 SECTION 5. *Application.* -- Each entity desiring a grant, contract, or cooperative  
12 agreement shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and  
13 accompanied by such information as the secretary may reasonable require.

14 SECTION 6. *Reports and evaluations.* --

15 (1) ANNUAL REPORT TO SECRETARY -- An eligible entity receiving  
16 funds under this Act shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an annual report which  
17 contains such information as the Secretary may require. At a minimum, the report shall  
18 describe the program activities undertaken with funds received, including --

19 (A) the programming that has been developed directly or  
20 indirectly by the eligible entity, and the target population of the programs  
21 developed;

22 (B) the support materials that have been developed to accompany the  
23 programming, and the method by which such materials are distributed to  
24 consumers and users of the programming;

1 (C) the means by which the programming developed under this  
2 section has been distributed, including the distance learning technologies  
3 that have been utilized to make programming available and the geographic  
4 distribution achieved through such technologies; and

5 (D) the initiatives undertaken by eligible entity to develop public-  
6 private partnership to secure support for the development, distribution and  
7 broadcast of educational and instructional programming.

8 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS -- The Secretary shall prepare and submit to  
9 the relevant committees of Congress a biannual report which includes --

10 (A) a summary of activities assisted; and

11 (B) a description of the training materials made available, the manner  
12 in which outreach has been conducted to inform parents and childcare  
13 providers of the availability of such materials, and the manner in which  
14 such materials have been distributed in accordance with such section.

15 SECTION 7. *Funding.* -- There are authorized such sums as may be necessary to  
16 carry out the provisions of this Act.

17 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* -- If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid  
18 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision shall remain valid and  
19 subsisting.

20 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* -- Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
21 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulations contrary to  
22 or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended  
23 accordingly.

1 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
2 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

/mamt