


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

'04 JUN 30 P10:41

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 882

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The predicament of the differently-abled in terms of fitting into a society all too often preoccupied with personal matters has been brought to our attention only recently.

As the Thirteenth Congress begins its legislative task, there is a great need 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.

This bill aims to provide free education for the differently-abled during their formative years. It is vital that the government takes the lead in providing this service for free because the impoverished certainly do not have the means to pay for the specialized education of these children.

By orienting these children at an early age, they shall learn to overcome their "handicap" and thus consider themselves as no different and certainly no less capable than any other person.


Immediate enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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

'04 JUN 30 P10:41

SENATE
S.B. No. 882

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - 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

- 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 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, 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 (P50,000,000.00) 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. *Repealing Clause.* - 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. *Separability Clause.* - 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. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in English or Filipino in the Official Gazette or in at least two(2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes first.

Approved,