

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

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SENATE
S. B. No. 1729

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 1, provides:

The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to equity education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

The government's investment in a high quality education system is necessary not only for the future of our children and our families, but also for the future of the country. A well-educated citizenry and workforce are essential to compete in the global economy and maintain a strong democracy.

In order to promote prosperity and ensure individual opportunity, the government must make education a national priority. Strong leadership in education is needed more than ever.

This bill seeks to provide grants to public educational institutions, in order to allow such institutions to promote certain educational initiatives that will enhance the quality of our public educational system.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO *df*

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AN ACT
PROVIDING GRANTS TO PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, IN ORDER TO
ALLOW SUCH INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE CERTAIN EDUCATION INITIATIVES

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

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

SECTION 2. *Program Authorized.* – The Secretary of Education (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) is authorized to award grants to public educational institutions to allow such institutions to promote the education initiatives described in Section 3.

SECTION 3. *Eligibility.* –

(1) APPLICATION – A public educational institution that desires to receive a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time and in such form as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – To be eligible to receive a grant under this Act, a public educational institution shall demonstrate that such a school has developed each of the following initiatives:

(A) CHARTER SCHOOL – A charter school program to allow parents greater choice in selecting the appropriate educational setting for their child.

(B) EARLY READING PROGRAMS – An elementary reading program to ensure that all students can read by the third grade.

(C) SAFE AND DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT – A program to provide a safe and drug-free environment at school.

(D) STANDARDIZED TESTING PROGRAM – A locally developed standardized testing program to ensure that students are achieving at a high level.

(E) CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PANELS – Curriculum development panels composed of teachers and parents to ensure that students learn the skills necessary to succeed.

(F) INCREASED TEACHING STANDARDS – A program to improve or increase the standards for teachers to ensure teachers have the skills necessary to assist students effectively.

(G) TEACHING EXCELLENCE – A program to ensure that the most qualified teachers are hired, including teachers with experience in the workplace.

SECTION 4. *Allocation of Funds.* – A public educational institution that meets the eligibility criteria described in Section 3 shall receive, subject to the availability of appropriations, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. An institution that receives a grant award under this Act may use not more than five percent (5%) of such award for administrative expenses.

SECTION 5. *Accountability.* – Each public educational institution that receives a grant award under this Act shall submit a report annually to the Secretary that evaluates the effectiveness of the initiatives described under Section 3 and any change in parental involvement as a result of such programs.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

FN: 1495