

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

'04 SEP 23 P5:04

SENATE

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S.B. No. 1807

Introduced by **SENATOR COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Recent statistics show that there is a significant number of children who are differently-abled, like autistic, dyslexic, blind, deaf and crippled. Parents complain of lack of government action on the matter and thus have to resort to private rehabilitation and education centers which are not only costly but are very scarce.

There is a need for a definite and comprehensive program for the early detection of these illnesses as well as early intervention. It is therefore imperative that a government agency under the auspices of the Department of Health be created for the proper care and education of these special children and their family so that these special children can be trained and educated to bring out their talent and make them useful members of society.

For these reasons, approval of this Bill is urgently sought.

Pia S. Cayetano
COMPAÑERA PIA S. CAYETANO
Senator

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE SPECIAL CHILDREN CENTER,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

Section 1. – Title. – This Act shall be known as **The Philippine Special
Children Center Act of 2004.**

Section 2. – Definition of Terms. –

- a. “**Special Children**” shall mean children with physical and/or mental disability, i. e. autistic, dyslexic, children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, blind, deaf, mute and the like, and therefore need special attention, care and education.
- b. “**Department**” shall mean the Department of Health.
- c. “**PSC Center**” shall mean the Philippine Special Children Center.
- d. “**Director**” shall mean the administrator of the PSC Center.
- e. “**DepEd**” shall mean the Department of Education.
- f. “**DSWD**” shall mean the Department of Social Welfare and Development.
- g. “**RHU**” shall mean Rural Health Unit established under the Local Government Code.
- h. “**LGUs**” shall mean the Local Government Units
- i. “**PSC Care**” shall mean special children care unit created in each RHU.

Section 3. PSC Center. – The PSC Center is hereby established and created with the following duties and responsibilities, among others:

- a. To formulate policies and programs for the proper assessment and treatment of special children.

- b. To formulate policies and programs for the proper assessment and education of special children.
- c. To formulate policies and programs for the proper integration of special children into society.
- d. To formulate policies and programs for private sector and cause-oriented group's participation in the full implementation of this Act.
- e. To formulate policies and programs for the orientation and education of families of special children.
- f. To establish PSC Care in each RHU as may be necessary for the complete implementation of this Act.
- g. To train and educate PSC Care personnel in the proper assessment of special children in order that early intervention, rehabilitation, treatment and education may be administered to these special children.

Section 4. Director. – The person to be appointed as Director of the PSC Center must have the following qualifications:

- a. He or she must be at least thirty five (35) years of age;
- b. A Medical Doctor with at least five (5) years of experience in developmental pediatrics or its equivalent;
- c. Must be of good moral character and of known probity.

Section 5. PSC Committee. – A PSC Committee is hereby created with the Secretary of the Department of Health or his/her representative as Chairman and the Secretaries of the DSWD and DepEd or their representatives as members. The PSC Committee shall be responsible for the promulgation of the necessary implementing rules and regulation for the complete implementation of this Act.

Section 6. Responsibility of LGUs. – Each LGU shall appropriate the necessary fund for the establishment, maintenance and operation of PSC Care in the RHU on their respective jurisdiction.

Section 7. Fund. – An initial fund in the amount of Twenty Five Million Pesos (Php25,000,000.00) is hereby allocated for the establishment of the PSC Center. Thereafter, its fund shall be included in the budget of the Department under the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION. 8. Separability Clause.– If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All other acts, laws, executive orders, presidential issuances, rules and regulations or any part thereof which are inconsistent herewith are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 10. *Effectivity.* - The provisions of this Act shall take effect fifteen days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,