



SENATE
S. No. 1460

20 MAY -4 A9 28

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Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

**AN ACT
EXPANDING THE BASIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM, INCREASING THE
FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF LEARNING DELIVERY UNDER THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE DISTANCE EDUCATION AND
ONLINE LEARNING, THEREBY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF
2013", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." The right to education therefore is a fundamental right and to increase accessibility, the State is also mandated to "encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs".¹ However, the spread of the novel Corona Virus or COVID-19 across the globe has greatly restricted mobility of persons and has prevented the full utilization of public services as well as access to different social institutions.

Foreign governments have implemented school closures across their countries to curb the transmission of the disease, impacting over 90% of the world's student

¹ Section 2, Article XIV, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

population.² This has adversely affected the fulfillment of the socio-economic needs of millions of children and has displaced many students who depend on educational institutions for food and shelter. In the Philippines alone, 27.7 million students have been affected by school closures.

On the financial aspect, the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA) has expressed growing concern on the disruption of classes, reportedly, "private schools nationwide are bracing an estimated revenue loss of Php 55.2 billion, which may shoot up to P142.1 billion if classes do not open at all due to COVID-19 situation in the country."³

With no end in sight to the spread of the new contagion, other countries such as Mexico and the United States are now offering remote learning. Areas in low income countries in Latin America, South Asia and Africa, where no internet access is available, are also adopting alternative modes of learning through radio/television broadcast. In the Philippines, some schools made the shift to online platforms but many found no success in efficiently reaching out to all their students for lack of internet access and electronic tools. Schools have either granted automatic passing marks or deferred grades due to the abrupt ending of the school calendar. This raises concern on the quality of academic learning of students given the limited online teaching tools and connectivity.

It must be noted that the Department of Education (DepEd) has recently announced the launching of "DepEd Commons," last March 2020. It is said to be an online platform for public school teachers to support distance learning modalities "precisely to continue the delivery of basic education to our children."⁴ Nevertheless, the DepEd Commons still has many limitations, purportedly, "contents are not yet

² Covid19 Educational Disruption and Response, UNESCO, retrieved from <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>.

³ Private schools on the 'verge of closing down operations' due to COVID-19, Hernando-Malipat, M., Manila Bulletin, April 25, 2020, retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/04/24/private-schools-on-the-verge-of-closing-down-operations-due-to-covid-19/>

⁴ DepEd launches online platform to support distance learning, Hernando-Malipat, M., Manila Bulletin, March 18, 2020, retrieved from <https://news.mb.com.ph/2020/03/18/deped-launches-online-platform-to-support-distance-learning/>

that many, evaluation and ranking have not yet been included, separate channels for teachers, parents, students, and officials have not yet been established.”⁵

Given the concerns on the impending reopening of classes for School Year 2020 to 2021, amid the current health crisis, this bill mandates the intergration of a distance learning curriculum in basic education and the expansion of the Bureau of Learning Delivery of the DepEd to include distance education and online learning, to address current and future developments that would require the recalibration of the “in-person” school system.

Ultimately, in view of the present shortfalls of distance education in the Philippines and the lack of guidance and trainings for educators with respect to the conduct of remote learning, it is important for the DepEd to mainstream distance education initiatives through the development of a national education policy framework for online or broadcast learning delivery. Considering the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this bill is respectfully requested.



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO

⁵ *Id.*

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE BASIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM, INCREASING THE
FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF LEARNING DELIVERY UNDER THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE DISTANCE EDUCATION AND
ONLINE LEARNING, THEREBY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF
2013", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Basic Online Learning
2 and Distance Education Act of 2020."

3
4 Sec. 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the
5 "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013", is hereby amended as follows:

6
7 "SEC. 5. Curriculum Development - The DepED shall formulate the design and
8 details of the enhanced basic education curriculum. It shall work with the
9 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to craft harmonized basic and tertiary
10 curricula for the global competitiveness of Filipino graduates. To ensure college
11 readiness and to avoid remedial and duplication of basic education subjects, the

1 DepED shall coordinate with the CHED and the Technical Education and Skills
2 Development Authority (TESDA).

3
4 **THE DEPED SHALL TAKE THE NECESSARY AND IMMEDIATE STEPS**
5 **TO INTEGRATE DISTANCE EDUCATION INITIATIVES IN THE BASIC**
6 **EDUCATION CURRICULUM THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL**
7 **EDUCATION POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR ONLINE OR BROADCAST**
8 **LEARNING DELIVERY FOR BASIC EDUCATION.**

9
10 To achieve an effective enhanced basic education curriculum, the DepED shall
11 undertake consultations with other national government agencies and other
12 stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Department of Labor and Employment
13 (DOLE), **THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**
14 **TECHNOLOGY (DICT), THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
15 **(DOST),** the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the private and public
16 schools associations, the national student organizations, the national teacher
17 organizations, the parents-teachers associations and the chambers of commerce on
18 matters affecting the concerned stakeholders.

19
20 XXXX.”

21
22 Sec. 3. A new section designated as Section 8 of the Enhanced Basic
23 Education Act of 2013 is inserted and shall read as follows:

24
25 **“SEC. 8. BUREAU OF DISTANCE EDUCATION AND LEARNING**
26 **DELIVERY. - THE CURRENT BUREAU OF LEARNING DELIVERY UNDER THE**
27 **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL HEREAFTER BE KNOWN AS THE**
28 **“BUREAU OF DISTANCE EDUCATION AND LEARNING DELIVERY”. THE**
29 **BUREAU SHALL RETAIN ALL OF ITS EXISTING FUNCTIONS AND SHALL**
30 **LIKEWISE FORMULATE AND MANAGE PROGRAMS THAT INCLUDE**
31 **COMPREHENSIVE AND ALIGNED SERVICES THAT USE INDIVIDUALIZED,**
32 **COLLECTIVE AND STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY OF DISTANCE AND**

1 **ONLINE LEARNING PORTALS FOR BASIC EDUCATION TO SUPPLEMENT**
2 **TRADITIONAL INSTRUCTION METHODOLOGIES.**

3 **THE BUREAU SHALL DEVELOP AND MANAGE A NATIONAL**
4 **EDUCATION POLICY FRAMEWORK AND CURRICULUM THAT**
5 **INCORPORATES EDUCATION PROGRAMMING VIA VIDEO OR RADIO**
6 **AND/OR ONLINE OR INTERNET-BASED, REMOTE AND OTHER VITRUAL**
7 **LEARNING METHODS.**

8 **GUIDANCE AND TRAINING FOR DISTANCE LEARNING SHALL BE**
9 **GIVEN TO INSTRUCTORS AND TEACHERS TO ENABLE THEM TO CARRY**
10 **OUT THE FUNCTIONS REQUIRED BY THE NEW DISTANCE LEARNING**
11 **CURRICULUM IN COOPERATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION**
12 **AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT) AND DEPARTMENT OF**
13 **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST)."**

14
15 All succeeding sections of the same Act are hereby renumbered accordingly.
16

17 *Sec. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary shall issue the
18 rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of and carry put the
19 policy set forth in this Act within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.
20

21 *Sec. 5. Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act shall be held
22 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain
23 in full force and effect.
24

25 *Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations
26 and other executive issuances which are inconsistent with or contrary to the
27 provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.
28

29 *Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
30 following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national
31 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,