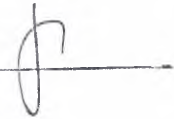


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )

'22 JUL -7 P5:51

SENATE  
S. No. 220

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_



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Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE  
EARLY DETECTION AND TIMELY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR  
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

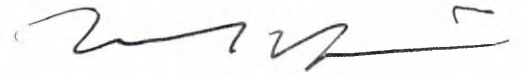
It is estimated that one out of seven or around 5.1 million Filipino children are living with disabilities.

Children with disabilities continue to experience barriers to access basic social services. Children with disabilities are less likely to attend school, access medical services, or have their voices heard in society. Their disabilities also place them at a higher risk of physical abuse and discrimination.

Through this legislation, a framework is envisioned wherein society must adapt its structures and mechanisms to ensure that children, irrespective of age, gender, and disability, must enjoy the human rights that are inherent in their human dignity. Disability cannot be considered in isolation, having special needs should not be a badge for discrimination.

This bill aims to put in place a comprehensive and coordinated health policy on children with special needs that would provide the directions and interventions

that must be undertaken by and among concerned agencies in an effective and timely manner.



**MARK A. VILLAR**  
Senator

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE  
EARLY DETECTION AND TIMELY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR  
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

*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 "*Early Detection and*  
2 *Intervention Services for Children with Mental Illness Act of 2022.*"

3 Sec 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated  
4 and comprehensive approach to health development, which shall endeavor to make  
5 essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at  
6 affordable cost.

7 Sec 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms shall mean:  
8 a) *Special Needs* shall mean a variety of conditions, difficulties, and  
9 impairments, including but not limited to chronic and terminal  
10 illnesses, physical impairments, behavioral, cognitive, or psychiatric  
11 issues, and learning disability that causes an individual to require  
12 additional or specialized services or accommodations such as  
13 education or recreation. A special needs child may have a life-  
14 threatening condition or they may have severe learning disabilities.

1           b) *Intervention* shall mean educational methods and positive behavioral  
2           support strategies designed to improve the condition of a child  
3           suffering from a mental disorder.

4           Sec 4. *Early Detection and Timely Intervention Services.* – The Department of  
5           Education (DepEd), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Interior  
6           and Local Government (DILG) shall undertake to develop a program providing for  
7           comprehensive accessible and affordable early detection and timely intervention  
8           services for children with special needs. The objectives of this program include but is  
9           not limited to the following:

- 10           a) To increase awareness, reduce barriers to screening and diagnosis,  
11           promote and evidence-based interventions for children with special  
12           needs or other developmental disabilities.
- 13           b) To build a qualified and adequately trained workforce prepared to  
14           provide special needs services for children and their families.
- 15           c) To conduct a comprehensive, multi-faceted public awareness campaign  
16           to educate families, the general public, and other key audiences about  
17           the benefits of children's social and emotional development, and how to  
18           access services.
- 19           d) To create a quality-driven children's special needs system with shared  
20           accountability among agencies and programs that conducts ongoing  
21           needs assessments, uses outcome indicators and benchmarks to  
22           measure progress, and implements a quality data tracking and reporting  
23           system.

24           Sec 5. *Special Needs Centers.* – All local government units shall endeavor to  
25           establish special needs centers offering early intervention and transition programs and  
26           shall provide programs and services that will prepare special needs children on  
27           activities in mainstream society.

1           Sec 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd and the DOH, in  
2 coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government, and in  
3 consultation with the relevant private sector practitioners and representatives of the  
4 academic community, shall promulgate the necessary Implementing Rules and  
5 Regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act, within ninety (90) days from its  
6 effectivity.

7           Sec 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this  
8 Act shall be charged to the appropriations or funds of the implementing agencies and  
9 concerned Local Government Units.

10           Sec 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
12 remain in force and effect.

13           Sec 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
14 order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this  
15 Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

16           SEC 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its  
17 complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,