

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

8 MAY 28 P3:37

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 2343

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Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC) was established on November 25, 1991 through the enactment of Republic Act No. 7165, entitled "An Act creating the Literacy Coordinating Council, defining its powers and functions, appropriating funds therefor, and for other purposes."

Said law was envisioned to advance the country's commitment toward the universalization of literacy. The LCC is mandated as a policy-making and advisory inter-agency body composed of representations from the Department of Education (DepED), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Philippine Normal University (PNU), the Philippine Senate, House of Representatives and the representatives from non-government organizations working and advocating for the promotion of literacy.

The LCC was conceived to fulfill the commitment of the State "to give the highest priority to the adoption of measures for the total eradication of illiteracy. For this purpose, it shall encourage and nationalize the formulation of policies and the implementation of programs on 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."

LCC was tasked to plan out and outline policies and programs toward strengthening the Department of Education's effort to develop and propagate literacy countrywide, has proved to be important. It has not only fulfilled the State's constitutional commitment but it has also effectively brought to the level of the local communities and the greatest number of people's organizations and non-government organizations the national government's aspiration to lessen, if not totally eradicate illiteracy, consistent with the constitutional provision and the UNESCO Declaration on the elimination of illiteracy of which the Philippines is a signatory.

It could be noted, however, that Republic Act No. 7165 was not a perfect legislation. While its formulation and crafting undergone a series of serious deliberations and public hearings, its enactment was a product of the culture and need of that time. In short, it was promulgated precisely to respond to the clamor of sectors that believe in the urgency and significance of instituting a shift of focus in the national government's education agenda - from the traditional orientation and mode of learning to engaging into various forms of enhancing literacy.

Recognizing the limitations of said law and acknowledging the imperative of proposing radical reforms in the LCC, amendments to Republic Act No. 7165 has become an urgent and timely demand. Advocates and stakeholders of literacy share a common belief that LCC can achieve greater goals and become more effective only if and when the law creating it is attuned with the demands of the time. Only then that it can promote a bolder approach toward achieving the country's commitment toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Moreover, since its creation some 15 years ago, the LCC has been in a want of an implementing guidelines to flesh out the mandate the functions of the Council, define the thrusts, objectives and parameters of the various literacy programs that the LCC has been mandated to undertake under the ate its overall operations, and prescribe for the appropriate relationship the LCC have with the Department of Education (DepED) and the rest of the sectors involved in the literacy programs.

Thus, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
'AN ACT CREATING THE LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL, DEFINING  
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES'**

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended to  
read as follows:

"SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY.- It [is] SHALL BE  
the policy of the State to give highest priority[for the total  
eradication of illiteracy.] TO THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF  
LITERACY.

"TOWARD THIS END[For this purpose], it shall encourage  
and rationalize the formulation of policies and the implementation of  
programs on [nonformal, informal and] FORMAL AND  
ALTERNATIVE learning systems[, as well as self-learning,  
independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those  
that respond to community needs.]"

THE STATE SHALL INSTITUTIONALIZE AN INTER-  
AGENCY COORDINATING AND ADVISORY BODY TO  
SYNCHRONIZE, AND STRENGTHEN POLICIES AND EFFORTS  
TOWARD THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF LITERACY.

Sec.2. A new section 3 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

SEC.3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.-FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT,  
THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL MEAN:

A) ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM (ALS)- IS A  
PARALLEL LEARNING SYSTEM TO PROVIDE A VIABLE  
ALTERNATIVE TO THE EXISTING FORMAL EDUCATION  
INSTRUCTION. IT ENCOMPASSES BOTH THE NON-  
FORMAL AND INFORMAL SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE  
AND SKILLS;

B) BASIC LITERACY-ABILITY OF A PERSON TO READ AND WRITE WITH UNDERSTANDING AND SIMPLE MESSAGE IN ANY LANGUAGE OR DIALECT.

C) COUNCIL-REFERS TO THE LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL CREATED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7165;

D) FORML EDUCATION (FE)- IS THE SYSTEMATIC AND DELIBERATE PROCESS OR HIERARCHICALLY STRUCTURED AND SEQUENTIAL LEARNING CORRESPONDING TO THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL OF SCHOOLING. AT THE END OF EACH LEVEL, THE LEARNER NEEDS A CERTIFICATION IN ORDER TO ENTER OR ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL;

E) INFORMAL EDUCATION (IE)-IS A LIFELONG PROCESS OF LEARNING BY WHICH EVERY PERSON ACQUIRES AND ACCUMULATES KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ATTITUDES AND INSIGHTS FROM DAILY EXPERIENCES AT HOME, AT WORK, AT PLAY AND FROM LIFE ITSELF;

F) NON-FORMAL EDUCATION (NFE)-IS ANY ORGANIZED, SYSTEMATIC EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY CARRIED OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FORMAL SYSTEM TO PROVIDE SELECTED TYPES OF LEARNING TO A SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION;

G) UNIVERSALIZATION OF LITERACY REFERS TO THE PROCESS OF AMKING A TARGET POPULATION LITERATE.

SEC.3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC[3]4. COMPOSITION.-The Council shall be composed of THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS [eight (8) members as follows: the Undersecretary of Nonformal Education of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports; the Undersecretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in charge of Local Governments; the Director of the Philippine Information Agency; the President of the Philippine National College; a representative from the National Economic and Development Authority designated by the Director-General; a representative of the Committee on Education and Culture of the Senate to be designated by the President of the Senate; a representative of the Committee on Education and Culture of the House of Representatives to be designated by the Speaker, and the representative of non-government organizations, involved in literacy education who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a period of three (3) years.]:

- 1) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION (DEPED), AS THE CHAIRMAN, WHO MAY DESIGNATE HIS UNDERSECRETARY AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE;
- 2) THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) WHO MAY DESIGNATE HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 3) THE CHAIRMAN, COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), OR HIS DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 4) THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA), OR HIS DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 5) THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY (PIA) WHO MAY DESIGNATE HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 6) THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA) WHO MAY DESIGNATE HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 7) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE OF THE SENATE WHO MAY DESIGNATE HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE; AND
- 8) THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF THE HOUSE OR REPRESENTATIVES WHO MAY DESIGNATE HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES; AND
- 9) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NETWORK OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROPAGATION OF LITERACY.

THE COUNCIL SHALL APPROVE AND CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NGOS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, GUIDELINES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF SUCH NGO REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE PROMULGATED BY THE COUNCIL.

SAID REPRESENTATIVE SHALL SERVE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS, SUBJECT TO A REAPPOINTMENT.

[The members of the Council shall annually elect a Chairman from among themselves except the two (2) representatives of Congress]

"The Council shall meet regularly [once a month] and may hold special meetings to consider urgent matters upon the call of the Chairman or any three Council members."

SEC.4. A new section 5 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

SEC.5. POWERS OF THE DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES.-DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL SHALL NE AFFORDED EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

TO VOTE AND PARTICIPATE IN ANY DELIBERATION DURING MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

LIKWISE, THEY SHALL BE AFFORDED, WHENEVER NECESSARY, REIMBURSEMENT OF ANY ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED DURING LCC-RELATED FUNCTIONS AND DUTIERS, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF EXISTING LAW AND/OR PERTINENT RULES AND REGULATIONS.

SEC.5. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC.[4]6. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.-The Council shall have the following POWERS AND functions:

"1.[To help] Act as the overall advisory and coordinating body, providing policy and program directions for all LITERACY endeavors in the country;

2. ENJOIN THE SERVICES, EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, COOPERATION, ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT OF APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN LITERACY;

"[2]3.[To]Recommend strategies on the development of a mass movement for the PROMOTION OF LIFE SKILLS AND EDUCATION TOWARDS THE [total eradication of illiteracy in the country by the year 2000] UNIVERSALIZATION OF LITERACY;

"[3]4. [To]Formulate measures on MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE LITERACY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING the establishment and maintenance of a national data bank and information exchange and dissemination system to support literacy efforts at the national and local levels;

"[4]5.[To assist in identifying successful management schemes of literacy programs, and adopt measures to boost research and development work in literacy, by government agencies, and non-governmental organizations, involve in literacy work;]

"[5]6.[To recommend ways and means of raising funds in order to support the] FORMULATE POLICIES TOWARDS MAXIMIZING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT ON literacy programs, projects and activities;

"[6] 7. [To recommend] PROPOSE measures on how to organize and strengthen support structures for literacy at the regional, PROVINCIAL and local levels; and,

"[7] 8. [To] Perform such other functions as may be necessary in furtherance of the purposes of this Act."

SEC.6. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“[SEC.5. The Administrative and research shall be detailed from the existing personnel of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports without prejudice to the designation by the Council of such additional staff members as it may deem for proper discharge of its functions and responsibilities.]”

“The administrative and research staff shall be detailed from the existing personnel of the Department of Education[Culture and Sports](DEPED) without prejudice to the designation AND/OR APPOINTMENT by the Council such additional staff members as it may be deem necessary for the proper discharge of its functions and responsibilities.”

THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE PAYMENT OF EMPLOYEES SALARIES, BENEFITS AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS AFFORDED ON THE COUNCIL; PROVIDED THAT SUCH OBLIGATIONS SHALL NOT EXCEED TWENTY PERCENTUM (20%) OF THE TOTAL ANNUAL APPROPRIATION OF THE LCC.

SEC.7. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby deleted.

SEC.8. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC.[7]8. The sum of ten million (P10,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the functions of the Council under this Act. Thereafter, the sum needed for the operation and maintenance of the Council shall be included in the annual Budget of the Department of Education[, Culture and Sports].

“[The Council shall submit to Congress an annual report which shall include among other things, policy recommendations which will require legislative action towards total eradication of illiteracy.]”

SEC.9. A new section is hereby inserted to read as follows:

SEC9. ANNUAL REPORT.-THE COUNCIL SHALL SUBMIT TO BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS AN ANNUAL REPORT WHICH MAY INCLUDE AMONG OTHER THINGS, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO PROMOTE AND ENSURE THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF LITERACY.

SEC.10. A new section is further hereby inserted to read as follows:

SEC.10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.- THE COUNCIL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL PROMULGATE WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT SHALL BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

SEC.11. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC.[8]11.SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.-All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed OR MODIFIED ACCORDINGLY.”

SEC.12. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC.[9] 12. REPEALING CLAUSE.- If any or part of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not invalidate other provisions thereof.”

SEC.13. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC.[10] 13. EFFECTIVITY.- This Act shall take effect FIFTEEN DAYS (15) upon its publication in [two (2) newspapers of general circulation] OFFICIAL GAZETTE.”

Approved,