

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

SENATE
S. No. **1577**

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1 mandates 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 available to all. Towards this end, the State shall pursue means of identifying and developing other ways to make education accessible to all.

To date, there are six institutions accredited by the Commission on Higher Education to maintain distance education programs. The trend for this type of education has been growing all over the world, online and otherwise. With the advent of the information age through the World Wide Web, this form of education can be a valuable tool in reaching out to the areas in our country which do not have access to the campuses.

In order to effectively promote this method of learning, we need to be able to secure additional information on this subject.

This bill seeks to commission the Department of Education and the Department of Science and Technology to undertake a study that would generate sufficient data to guide the executive branch of the government in making programs and enable us to provide better legislation on this matter.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed during the 14th Congress 1st Regular Session

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 TO REQUIRE AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
3 PROGRAMS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Independent Study of
5 Distance Education Act."

6 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1 mandates
7 that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels
8 and shall take appropriate steps to make such education available to all. Towards this end, the
9 State shall pursue means of identifying and developing other ways to make education accessible
10 to all.

11 SECTION 3. *Independent Evaluation.* - The Secretary of Education shall enter into an
12 agreement with the Department of Science and Technology to conduct a scientifically correct,
13 statistically valid evaluation of the quality of distance education programs, as compared to
14 campus-based education programs, at institutions of higher education. Such evaluation shall
15 include-

16 (A) identification of the elements by which the quality of distance education, as
17 compared to campus-based education, can be assessed, including elements such as
18 subject matter, interactivity, and student outcomes;

19 (B) identification of distance and campus-based education program success, with respect
20 to student achievement, in relation to the mission of the institution of higher education;

21 and

1 (C) by assessing elements including access to higher education, job placement rates,
2 undergraduate graduation rates, and graduate and professional degree attainment rates,
3 identification of the types of students (including classification of types of students based
4 on student age)--

5 (1) who most benefit from distance education programs;

6 (2) who most benefit from campus-based education programs; and

7 (3) who do not benefit from distance education programs.

8 SECTION 4. *Scope.* - The Department of Science and Technology shall select for
9 participation in the evaluation under subsection (a) a diverse group of institutions of higher
10 education with respect to size, mission, and geographic distribution.

11 SECTION 5. *Interim and Final Report.* - The agreement under Section 3 shall require
12 that the Department of Science and Technology submit to the Secretary of Education, the Senate,
13 and the House of Representatives--

14 (1) an interim report regarding the evaluation under Section 3 not later than six months
15 after the date of enactment of this Act; and

16 (2) a final report regarding such evaluation not later than one year after the date of
17 enactment of this Act.

18 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
19 hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

20 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
21 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
22 valid and subsisting.

23 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
24 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
25 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

26 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

28 Approved,