



This is a Senate counterpart bill to one filed in the House of Representatives by Rep.

Edcel C. Lagman.\*

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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\* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, First Regular Session

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

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE  
S. No. 2253

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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1 AN ACT  
2 PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION  
3 PROGRAM (SHNP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS,  
4 AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "School Health and  
6 Nutrition Modernization Act."

7 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
8 promote, maintain and protect the health and nutritional well-being of the school population  
9 through the delivery of preventive health care to the students, teachers and school administrators  
10 in the elementary and high school levels and to the non-teaching personnel. Toward this end, the  
11 School Health and Nutrition Program of the Department of Education, shall be modernized and  
12 upgraded to ensure the attainment of a health status that can enhance the active learning  
13 capacities of the children and for the teachers and other personnel to function more effectively,  
14 thus, enabling the achievement of the goals of quality basic education.

15 It is likewise declared the policy of the State to pursue the modernization program  
16 under this Act through:

17 (A) The development of an efficient and effective health care delivery system in the  
18 schools;

19 (B) The development, evaluation and application of appropriate methods and procedures  
20 in preventive health care;

21 (C) The development of reforms in the management of human and material resources;  
22 and

1 (D) The acquisition and upgrading of appropriate equipment and technology.

2 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -For the purposes of this Act, the term:

3 (A) "Department" means the Department of Education.

4 (B) "School Health and Nutrition Program" (SHNP) means a comprehensive education  
5 and service package, delivered to the schools, eventually to the homes and communities,  
6 in order to improve the health and nutritional status of the total school population, with  
7 the elementary grades children as its priority group.

8 (C) "Public Health" means the science and the art of preventing disease, prolonging life,  
9 and promoting physical and mental health and efficiency through organized community  
10 efforts.

11 (D) "Preventive Health Care" means the systematic organization of all the personal  
12 services necessary to prevent disease and attain the highest level of health.

13 (E) "Health and Nutrition Center" means the agency that takes charge of the overall  
14 management of the integrated SHNP.

15 (F) "Basic Education" means the six years elementary and four years secondary  
16 education. Basic education is that which brings the child to a point where he can be an  
17 autonomous learner, one who is self-reliant and creative.

18 (G) "Health Education" means the teaching and counseling on healthy living, including  
19 hygiene, nutrition, sex education, alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and other threats to  
20 health.

21 (H) "Quality Education" means the appropriateness, relevance and excellence of the  
22 education given to the individual in meeting his/her needs and aspirations and those of  
23 society.

24 SECTION 4. *Objectives of the SHNP.* - The SHNP modernization shall be implemented  
25 in accordance with the following objectives:

1 (A) To provide a comprehensive preventive health care to school children and teachers in  
2 the elementary and secondary levels of education and to the non-teaching personnel of  
3 the Department;

4 (B) To inculcate health and nutrition values and behavior and encourage healthy lifestyles  
5 among the school populace;

6 (C) To encourage parents to provide their children with proper health care and to perform  
7 effective parenting to prevent drug abuse;

8 (D) To develop effective linkages between the school and community for better school  
9 health;

10 (E) To strengthen the Health and Nutrition Center in the management of the Program;  
11 and

12 (F) To establish and maintain adequate health and sanitation facilities like school clinics,  
13 canteens, water supply, sanitary toilets and garbage disposal in the schools.

14 SECTION 5. *Components of the SHNP Modernization.* - The modernization program  
15 shall consist of the following components:

16 (A) *Organizational Development.* - To carry out effectively their functions, it is necessary  
17 to restructure, expand and upgrade the staff and personnel of the Regional Health and  
18 Nutrition Units and the Division Health and Nutrition Sections including the creation of  
19 nurse supervisor positions to oversee nursing care of the school children: Provided, That  
20 in the upgrading of plantilla positions, the compensation and benefits shall be at par with  
21 those of health and nutrition personnel in other government agencies in accordance with  
22 existing laws, rules and regulations.

23 (B) *Human Resources Development.* - This component pertains to programs and  
24 educational activities of health and nutrition personnel to enhance their skills and  
25 competencies through workshops, conferences and in-service trainings relative to the  
26 delivery of health care, and on mobilization as well as administrative responsibilities.

1 A continuing health resource development program shall be implemented.

2 (C) *Infrastructure Development.* - This component consists of the construction of  
3 physical plants and facilities such as sanitary toilets, facilities for washing hands, water  
4 system, school clinics and feeding centers/canteens in the public elementary schools to  
5 ensure health and nutritional needs in public elementary schools including suitable sites  
6 for the Alay-Tanim Tree Planting program.

7 (D) *Information and Systems Organization.* - This component consists of the acquisition  
8 and development of an extensive computer network for health and nutrition care; the  
9 upgrading of methods and procedures in preventive health care; monitoring and  
10 evaluation; and research in support of the total program.

11 The Department Secretary in coordination with the Secretary of Health shall formulate  
12 guidelines to implement this section in accordance with the objectives of the  
13 modernization program enumerated in the preceding section.

14 SECTION 6. *Priority Programs for SHNP Modernization.* - For a more effective  
15 implementation of the objectives of the SHNP and consistent with the mandate of the  
16 Constitution relative to health care, the following programs/activities shall be given priority  
17 consideration:

18 (A) Recruitment of school health and nutrition personnel to attain the ratio of one (1)  
19 personnel to two thousand (2,000) pupils/teachers over a five (5) year period;

20 (B) Upgrading of the salary of health and nutrition personnel to be at par with  
21 counterparts in other Departments and full implementation of the benefits of the Magna  
22 Carta for Public Health Workers;

23 (C) Provision of equipment, medical and dental supplies and medicines;

24 (D) Health examination of all Grade 1 entrants and provision of supplementary feeding  
25 (breakfast and/or milk) to Grade 1 pupils and nutritionally deprived school children;

1           SECTION 7. *Period of Implementation.* - The Modernization Program under this Act  
2 shall be implemented over a period of five (5) years from the year this Act is promulgated.

3           SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* - To effectively carry out the objectives of this Act, the  
4 initial amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos (P200,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be  
5 appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and from the  
6 funds of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority. Thereafter, such funds as are  
7 necessary shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

8           SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional,  
9 the remainder of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

10          SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
11 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
12 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

13          SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
14 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,