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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 3235

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Introduced by Senator **EDGARDO J. ANGARA**

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 23 November 1990, the barangay-level Total Development & Protection of Children Act was signed into law. This mandates the establishment of a day care center in every barangay.

The value of early childhood development can be better appreciated when we examine the rate of failure in the licensure examinations. For every 100 professional licensure examinees, only 32 are able to pass. Further research revealed that this performance is exhibited in all levels.

- For every 100 students who enter college, only 48 are able to earn a degree.
- For every 100 1<sup>st</sup> year high school students, only 68 are able to graduate.
- For every 100 Gr.1 entrants, only 65 are able to finish Gr.6. It was noted that 60% of school dropouts in the elementary level occur in grades 1 & 2.

We believe that a major contributing factor to our poor quality of education is the lack of preparation for our schooling. The gradual acceptance of pre-school in the country today underscores the importance of pre-school education.

Child educators agree that starting educators at pre-school age has substantial benefits to the learner and to society. By contributing to better academic performance, pre-schooling helps reduce the number of repeaters, hence we cut back on educational expenditure.

Teachers in other levels will be compelled to continuously undergo training so they could ably respond to the needs of better-prepared students entering elementary. With improved performance of teachers, we would be offering better quality education to our students. This, together with enhanced technical/vocational education, will allow us to generate a more educated labor force that will gear us to be more globally competitive.

  
**EDGARDO J. ANGARA**

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AN ACT  
INSTITUTIONALIZING PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION, INCREASING THE  
MONTHLY COMPENSATION OF DAY CARE WORKERS AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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

1            **SEC. 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Pre-school Development Act of*  
2 *2009.*”

3  
4            **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the state to  
5 provide for a universal early childhood or pre-school education that promotes effective social,  
6 intellectual and skills stimulation and value formation for children from 3-5 years old with the  
7 end-view of amply preparing them for formal elementary schooling.

8  
9            **SEC. 3. Framework.** – To implement the state policy as enunciated in this act, pre-school  
10 education is hereby institutionalized as part of the compulsory basic education. The *barangay*  
11 day care centers, established by virtue of R.A. No. 6972, shall constitute the public sector pre-  
12 school institutions.

13  
14            The government shall provide the necessary funding support for a national public sector  
15 pre-school program. Properly trained day care workers shall be responsible for early childhood  
16 education, integrating health, nutrition, safety and psycho social learnings in the early childhood  
17 development program.

18  
19            Two years after the effectivity of this Act, no student shall be admitted to Grade 1  
20 without having attended at least one (1) year of pre-school education: *Provided*, that the student

1 passes a prescribed examination which shall test his preparedness in tackling the curriculum for  
2 Grade 1.

3  
4 **SEC. 4. Coverage.** – This act shall cover initially all five (5) year old children, to be  
5 extended to all 3-4 year olds as more funds become available.

6  
7 **SEC.5. Implementing Agency.** – The program shall be implemented by the *barangay*  
8 with appropriate support from the DSWD.

9  
10 The *sangguniang barangay* may also call upon non-government organization (NGOs)  
11 and private volunteers who are responsible members of the community to assist in the proper  
12 implementation of this Act.

13  
14 **SEC. 6. Functions of the DSWD.** – The Department shall:

15  
16 (a) In coordination with the barangays, make an inventory of all existing day care centers  
17 and day care workers, and determine the appropriate number of day care centers and  
18 day care workers in each specific *barangay* to fully provide for the pre-school  
19 education of children covered by this Act.

20  
21 (b) In coordination by the DepEd, formulate a standard pre-school curriculum, including  
22 the formulation and development of the teachers' and pupils' materials and general  
23 guidelines for the organization and operation of pre-schools.

24  
25 (c) In coordination with the DepEd, formulate, develop and extend a regular training  
26 program to day care workers to ensure constant updating of their knowledge in  
27 modern trends, methodologies and concepts on early childhood education.

28  
29 **SEC. 7. Information Dissemination.** – The Philippine Information Agency (PIA),  
30 DSWD and the *sangguniang barangay* shall ensure an effective information dissemination  
31 campaign on the provisions of this Act.

32  
33 **SEC. 8. Qualifications and Appointment of Barangay Day Care Workers.-**

34  
35 (a) A *barangay* day care worker must be of legal age, with a good standing in the  
36 community, has obtained a Bachelor's degree in Child Development Education,  
37 Family Life and Child Development, Elementary Education or any related course,  
38 and duly accredited by the DSWD; *Provided*, that the afore-mentioned qualifications

1 will not be prejudicial to incumbent day care workers; *Provided further*, that the  
2 incumbent day care worker who is without the required educational qualification and  
3 accreditation shall obtain the same during the summer vacation until he/she has  
4 complied with the prescribed qualifications.

5  
6 (b) A *barangay* day care worker, duly accredited by the DSWD, shall be appointed by  
7 the Barangay Captain with the concurrence of the majority of the *sangguniang*  
8 *barangay*.

9  
10 **SEC. 9. Salary of Day Care Workers.** – A *barangay* day care worker shall receive a  
11 monthly salary of not lower than the prevailing minimum wage set by law.

12  
13 **SEC. 10. Funds for the Center, the Program and Day Care Workers** – (a) The funds  
14 for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of *barangay* day care centers and the salary of  
15 day care workers shall be appropriated from the national budget and shall be included in the  
16 General Appropriations Act.

17  
18 (b) Funds for curriculum development, and the development and extension of training  
19 programs shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as part of the DSWD.

20  
21 (c) The amount needed to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated in the  
22 General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law.

23  
24 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, and executive  
25 orders contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

26  
27 **SEC 12. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least  
28 two newspapers of general circulation.

29  
30 Approved,