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SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

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Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 295

APPROVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Cynthia Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

To get a decent education is one of the fundamental rights of every citizen. Thus, Section 1, Article XIV of our Constitution imposes upon the State the responsibility to "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels" and "take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all".

Cognizant of the importance of education as a tool to a nation's progress, it is crucial that the State address the challenge to quality education as early as during the early formative years of the child.

To ensure that the fundamental right of a child to quality education is protected, this bill aims to promote compulsory education for children of compulsory school age, providing only for limited special circumstances for exemption, directing the local government units, particularly in the barangay level, to be directly involved in the monitoring of the education of children under their areas of jurisdiction and the Department of Education to formulate the necessary curriculum for learning.

For this purpose it shall be the joint responsibility of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Education to ensure the establishment of schools and the necessary support services for the implementation of this measure.

Providing for quality education is one of the most important legacy the State and the local government can offer to the people. In ensuring the grant of good education to the children, the State does not only discharge its most important function, it is also making a crucial investment vital to economic growth. In educating the young, the State will be assured of an adequate and competent workforce ready and fully equipped to face the challenges of global competition.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

*[Signature]*  
CYNTHIA VILLAR



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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 295

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

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Introduced by Senator Cynthia Villar

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**AN**  
**ENSURING THE FULL REALIZATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF ALL**  
**CITIZENS TO QUALITY EDUCATION ORDAINING FOR THE PURPOSE**  
**“A NO FILIPINO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT”**

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

1       **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “No Filipino Child Left  
2 Behind Act.”  
3

4       **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is declared a policy of the State to  
5 protect and promote the right of the citizens to quality education and to take appropriate  
6 steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, the State shall  
7 provide the necessary framework and resources for the implementation of educational  
8 programs, projects and services; encouraging local initiatives for the improvement of  
9 schools and community based learning facilities; Promote compulsory education and  
10 provide only for limited special circumstances when children of compulsory school age  
11 would not be required to attend school; Provide a system for the monitoring of children  
12 of compulsory school age and ensuring that they enjoy the benefit of having the  
13 opportunity to be educated; Ensure that the schools and other facilities of learning are  
14 able to reflect the values of the community by allowing the teachers, learning facilitators  
15 and other staff to have flexibility in servicing the needs of the learners.  
16

17       In the implementation of this Act, the following objectives are set:  
18

19       By the year 2020, all Filipino children of compulsory age must have completed  
20 elementary education;

21       By the year 2025, all Filipinos must have obtained and completed high school  
22 education.  
23

24       **SECTION. 3. Establishment of a School or Learning facility.-** There shall,  
25 as far as practicable, be established in every barangay an elementary school under the  
26 supervision of Department of Education in coordination with the Local School Board.  
27

28       At least one central elementary or national high school in every province must be  
29 opened and operated as a night school: Provided, that, as far as practicable, distance  
30 and open education system must be established in all provinces of the Philippines.  
31

1 A citizen who may have relevant knowledge and adequate background and  
2 experience, without obtaining relevant units in education, may volunteer to teach and  
3 complement a regular teacher's function, particularly in far flung areas. For the such  
4 purpose, subject to consultation, the Department of Education shall provide them with  
5 honoraria in accordance with the guidelines issued for the purpose.  
6

7 A tertiary student enrolled in optional Reserved Optional Training Course (ROTC)  
8 class may opt to be a volunteer teacher and the same may be credited as compliance of  
9 the course.  
10

11 The Department of Education must construct and promote the use mobile  
12 libraries; utilization of comics; television and audio visual discs and tapes and other  
13 visual aids in education; internet and other facilities that will enhance learning and  
14 acquisition of knowledge.  
15

16 All secondary educational institutions must have a science laboratory with  
17 equipment and tools  
18  
19

20 **SECTION 4. Mandatory Monitoring of children of Compulsory School Age.**

21 - In addition to the duties identified in the Local Government Code, it shall be the duty  
22 of the officials in the barangay to monitor children of compulsory school age and ensure  
23 that they are afforded the opportunity to obtain basic literacy and functional skills.  
24

25 For this purpose, the barangay council shall submit periodic report to the Local  
26 School Board on the number of children belonging to the compulsory school age and  
27 the status as to whether or not these children are able to attend school.  
28  
29

30 **SECTION. 5. Compulsory Attendance of Children** - It shall be the  
31 responsibility of the parent or guardian to enroll the child of compulsory school age in a  
32 school or a learning facility or apply and register the child for home education or secure  
33 an exemption if circumstances so warrant.  
34

35 The penalty of a fine of One Thousand Pesos (P 1,000.00) and attendance to a  
36 community seminar on the importance of education to be organized by the concerned  
37 city/municipal government, or non-governmental organization (NGO) shall be imposed  
38 on a parent or guardian who fails to enroll a learner in school or a learning facility or  
39 apply and register the learner for home education, in the absence of an exemption.  
40

41 The penalty of a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.) and one month  
42 community service in a school or learning facility shall be imposed for the second  
43 offense.  
44

45 The penalty of one (1) year imprisonment shall be imposed on habitual offenders.  
46  
47

48 **SECTION. 6. Special Circumstances for Exemption from Compulsory**  
49 **Attendance** – The Local Chief Executive may upon recommendation of the Barangay  
50 Council and favorably endorsed by the Local School Board, may, upon application by  
51 the parent or guardian of the child issue a certificate exempting the child from  
52 attendance in a school or learning facility, if :  
53

54 The learner is registered for home education;  
55

1 It is in the learner's best interest, having regard to the care, health development,  
2 mental or emotional development or education of the learner, to exempt him/her from  
3 school or a learning facility.  
4

5 It is necessary or desirable owing to the personal circumstance of the child's  
6 family provided that the parent or guardian should allow the child to participate in basic  
7 literacy training skills to be organized by the barangay at least once a week for children  
8 of compulsory school age.  
9

10  
11 **SECTION. 7. Prohibition on Employment of Children of Compulsory School**  
12 **Age.** – It shall be unlawful for any person to employ or engage the services of a child of  
13 compulsory school age on a day and at a time, when the child is required to attend  
14 school/learning facility, a school activity or an approved educational course.  
15

16 The penalty of a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00) for the first offense  
17 and imprisonment of not less than fifteen days but no more than thirty (30) days for  
18 repeat offenders, shall be imposed on any person found to violate this provision.  
19

20  
21 **SECTION. 8. Penalty for Public Officials.** – Any public officer or employee  
22 who violates any provision of this act may be meted administrative disciplinary action,  
23 without prejudice to the filing of appropriate civil or criminal action.  
24

25 **SECTION. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of  
26 Education, in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government, upon  
27 prior consultation with the Committees on Education of the Senate and the House of  
28 Representatives, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
29 implementation of this Act within a period of ninety (90) days after its approval.  
30

31 **SECTION.10. Appropriations.** - Beginning the year this Act is enacted, and  
32 for the next ten (10) years:  
33

34 a. an amount of ten (10) billion pesos must be added in the existing budget  
35 of the Department of Education (DEpEd) to support construction of school building and  
36 repair of existing facilities, acquisition of science laboratory equipment, computers,  
37 and hiring of new teachers including those who will teach in the night school.  
38

39 b. without diminishing their entitlements, all members of Congress must  
40 appropriate thirty percent (30 %) of their congressional initiatives for education-related  
41 projects within their respective districts.  
42

43 In addition to the respective corporate social responsibilities being funded by  
44 private entities and corporations, the DepEd must encourage the implementation of the  
45 "Adopt a Public School Program" for support. Corresponding tax credit and  
46 entitlements may be accorded to the persons, natural or juridical, in support of this Act,  
47 in accordance with the Rules and Procedures to be formulated by the Department of  
48 Finance.  
49

50 **SECTION. 11. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared  
51 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and  
52 effect.  
53

54 **SECTION. 12. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
55 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
56 accordingly.  
57

1           **SECTION. 13. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect immediately upon its  
2 approval.

3  
4           *Approved*