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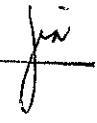
Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 296

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

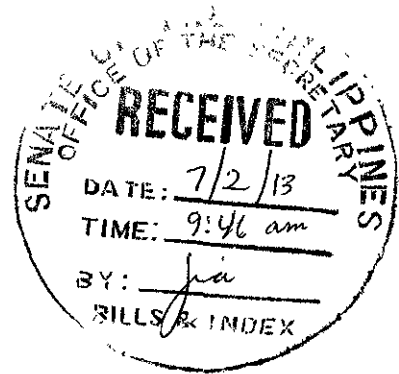
Alternative Learning System (ALS) is neither a new concept nor a phenomenon since it is the primary goal of the *Education for All Program*. The ALS institutionalization is consistent with the declared policy of Republic Act 9155, otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001 where the State is mandated, among others, to "promote, the right of all citizens to quality basic education and to make such education accessible to all by providing all Filipino children a free compulsory education in the elementary level and free education in the high school level" with central emphasis of including "alternative learning education system for out-of-school youth and adult learners."

The advent of ALS offers a new dimension and a paradigm shift for non-formal education that will ultimately address and satisfy the legal requirements of Republic Act 9155. ALS is an independent complete learning system as it addresses the various learning styles and needs of learners. Learners are given full discretion of the kind and method of-learning they wish to have, including the use of information technology. A system and mode of certification and/or accreditation will be put in place to enhance employability of those who get into it.

The immediate passage of this bill is recommended.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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



SENATE
S.B. No. 296

Introduced by Senator Cynthia Villar

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM (BALS)

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 "Alternative Learning System
2 Act."

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is policy of the State to encourage non-
5 formal, informal and indigenous learning system, as well as self-learning, independent,
6 and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs.
7 The State shall also provide adult citizens, the disabled and out-of-school youth with
8 training in civics, vocational efficiency, and other skills.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Definition.** - For the purpose of this Act, the terms and phrases shall
11 mean as follows:

12
13 a) Alternative Learning System (ALS) shall refer to a parallel learning system to provide
14 a viable alternative to the existing formal education. It encompasses both the non-
15 formal, and informal sources of knowledge and skills.

16
17 b) Distance Education shall refer to any formal or non-formal education process wherein
18 the teaching method is outside the traditional means of education service delivery but
19 instead makes use of other methods of communication such as via mail, video, radio
20 correspondence or other such means of communication.

21
22 c) Bureau shall refer to the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS)

23
24 **SEC. 4. Renaming of the Bureau.** - The present Bureau of Non-formal Education (BNFE)
25 under the Department of Education shall now hereby be renamed as the Bureau of
26 Alternative Learning System (BALS).

27
28 **SEC. 5. Functions of the Bureau of Alternative Learning System.** - The Bureau
29 shall perform the following functions:

30
31 a) Formulate the objectives and basic policies of the alternative learning system;

32
33 b) Formulate, adopt and supplement schemes and systems that will be most effective and
34 productive for ALS;

35
36 c) Formulate guidelines, policies, criteria for accreditation and evaluation of establishments
37 offering ALS;

1
2 d) Formulate policies, guidelines, systems that will effectively administer admission of
3 students, delivery of instruction, and graduation;
4

5 e) Formulate policies, guidelines and systems that will efficiently transfer of students from
6 ALS to formal education and vice-versa;
7

8 f) Administer and supervise the education programs of institutions and schools offering ALS;

9 g) Develop curricula for ALS;
10

11 h) Coordinate and monitor the objectives, functions and activities of ALS; and
12

13 i) Administer, supervise, monitor and coordinate all programs and activities under Distance
14 Education
15

16 **SEC. 6. Institutionalization of Distance Education** - The administration of all
17 Distance Education programs and projects is hereby transferred to the Bureau of Alternative
18 Learning System.
19

20 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Education,
21 upon prior consultation with the appropriate government agencies, non-governmental
22 organizations and concerned civil society, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations
23 for the effective implementation of this Act within a period of ninety (90) days after its
24 approval.
25

26 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations,
27 and other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent with this Act are
28 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
29

30 **SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
31 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
32 circulation.
33

34 Approved,
35