

31 2015

SENATE

S. No. 530

Order

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.


EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 17 provides:

The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports, to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Brain development research shows that the first three years of a child's life are critical to his brain development and future success. Thus, high quality early learning programs are needed in order to develop his language and cognitive skills.

This bill seeks to establish early learning programs for indigent pre-kindergarten children, in order to provide them, with high quality, child-centered, developmentally appropriate educational programs.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.
Senator

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SENATE

S. No. 530

BY: Alde

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR INDIGENT PRE-KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN

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

SECTION 1. Short title - This Act shall be known as the "Early Learning Trust Fund Act."

SECTION 2. Purposes - The purposes of this Act are

- (1) To make widely available to pre-kindergarten children a high-quality, child-centered, developmentally appropriate early learning program;
- (2) To make widely available to parents of pre-kindergarten children who desire the services, a program in which they can enroll their pre-kindergarten children;
- (3) To provide resources to ensure that all children enter elementary school ready to learn how to read; and

SECTION 3. Definitions - In this Act -

(1) **EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS**- The term "early learning programs" means programs that provide services that are for children who have not attended kindergarten or elementary school. Such programs are designed to provide indigent pre-kindergarten children with a high quality, child-centered, developmentally appropriate learning program and with resources to ensure that all children enter elementary school ready to learn how to read.

(2) **PARENT**- The term 'Parent' means a biological parent, all adoptive parent, a stepparent, or foster parent of a child, including a legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis*.

(3) **SECRETARY**- The term Secretary means the Secretary of Education.

SECTION 4. Early Learning Program- The Secretary shall establish and maintain an early learning program that provides learning services in every city or municipality. The program shall -

(A) Be developed pursuant to guideline provided by the educational authorities, and experts in early childhood development; and

(B) Be designed to improve child development through

- (i) Improved access to and increased coordination with health care services;
- (ii) Increased access to enhanced early learning environments;
- (iii) Increased parental involvement;

The program shall be designed to service pre-kindergarten children, including those with special needs, who shall receive enhanced educational and comprehensive services and supports, through parent involvement and education;

SECTION 5. Assessment - The Secretary shall conduct all evaluation of the effectiveness of the early childhood programs established and conduct needs and use such resources assessment to,

(i) Determine where early learning programs are lacking or are inadequate within a given city or municipality; with particular attention to poor urban and rural areas, and what special services are needed; and

(ii) Specify which programs might be expanded or upgraded with the use of funds received under this Act.

SEC.6 Appropriations - there is authorized such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

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

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

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

Approved.