

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'13 AUG 15 P3:25

SENATE  
S. No. 1329

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

---

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

---

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 1 provides that:

SEC. 1. The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

Literacy is one of the foremost concerns in our country. As our population grows and our poverty increases, there is greater and greater challenges to reach out to our countrymen and provide their children with the gift of literacy.

In order for our literacy program to be more cost and time efficient, we should integrate it with our early health programs spanning from pre-natal care to pre-school age services. This way, we will be able help parents and children together as this is the time when they spend most of their time together. Before school age, it is the parents who are primarily responsible for the education of their children. By establishing the program early on, we will be able to better prepare our children for school. That way, the children can have an easier time getting started in school.

This bill seeks to encourage the private sector to develop programs which would help parents and children to read and take up the habit of reading\*

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

*as*

---

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



13 AUG 15 P3 25

SENATE  
S. No. 1329

RECEIVED BY: ju

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT

TO AID AND SUPPORT PEDIATRIC INVOLVEMENT IN READING AND EDUCATION

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Pediatric Early Literacy Act.”

SECTION 2. *Definitions.* – For purposes of this Act, the term –

A. ELIGIBLE ENTITY - means a nonprofit organization that has, as determined by the Secretary of Education, demonstrated effectiveness in the following areas:

1. Providing peer-to-peer training to healthcare providers in research-based methods of literacy promotion as part of routine pediatric health supervision visits.
2. Delivering a training curriculum through a variety of medical education settings, including residency training, continuing medical education, and national pediatric conferences.
3. Providing technical assistance to local healthcare facilities to effectively implement a high-quality Pediatric Early Literacy Program.
4. Offering opportunities for local healthcare facilities to obtain books at significant discounts.
5. Integrating the latest developmental and educational research into the training curriculum for healthcare providers.

B. PEDIATRIC EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM - means a program that –

1. creates and implements a three (3)-part model through which—

- a. healthcare providers, doctors, and nurses, trained in research-based methods of early language and literacy promotion, encourage parents to read aloud to their young children, and offer developmentally appropriate recommendations and strategies to parents for the purpose of reading aloud to their children;
  - b. healthcare providers, at health supervision visits, provide each child between the ages of six (6) months and five (5) years a new, developmentally appropriate children's book to take home and keep; and
  - c. volunteers in waiting areas of healthcare facilities to read aloud to children, modeling for parents the techniques and pleasures of sharing books together;
2. demonstrates, through research published in peer-reviewed journals, effectiveness in positively altering parent behavior regarding reading aloud to children, and improving expressive and receptive language in young children; and
  3. receives the endorsement of nationally-recognized medical associations and academies.

C. SECRETARY - means the Secretary of Education.

SECTION 3. *Program Authorized.* – The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligible entities to enable them to implement Pediatric Early Literacy Programs.

SECTION 4. *Applications.* – An eligible entity that desires to receive a grant under Act shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and including such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

SECTION 5. *Matching Requirement.* – An eligible entity receiving a grant under this Act shall provide either directly or through private contributions, in cash or in-kind, non-government

1 matching funds equal to not less than fifty (50) percent of the grant received by the eligible entity  
2 under this Act.

3 SECTION 6. *Use of Funds.* - An eligible entity receiving a grant under this Act shall -

4 A. enter into contracts with private nonprofit organizations, or with public agencies,  
5 selected based on the criteria described in Section 7, under which each contractor will agree to  
6 establish and operate a Pediatric Early Literacy Program;

7 B. provide such training and technical assistance to each contractor of the eligible  
8 entity as may be necessary to carry out this Act; and

9 C. include such other terms and conditions in an agreement with a contractor as the  
10 Secretary determines to be appropriate to ensure the effectiveness of such programs.

11 SECTION 7. *Contractor Criteria.* - Contractors shall be selected under Section 6 on the  
12 basis of the extent to which the contractors give priority to serving a substantial number or  
13 percentage of at-risk children, including—

14 A. low-income children (defined in this Act as children from families with incomes  
15 below 200 percent of the poverty line), particularly low-income children in high-poverty areas;

16 B. children without adequate medical insurance;

17 C. children living in rural areas;

18 D. children with limited access to libraries.

19 SECTION 8. *Restriction on Payments.* - The Secretary shall make no payment to eligible  
20 entities under this Act unless the Secretary determines that the eligible entity or a contractor of  
21 the eligible entity, as the case may be, has made arrangements with book publishers or  
22 distributors to obtain books at discounts that are at least as favorable as discounts that are  
23 customarily given by such publisher or distributor for book purchases made under similar  
24 circumstances in the absence of government assistance.

1           SECTION 9. *Reporting Requirement.* – An eligible entity receiving a grant under this Act  
2 shall report annually to the Secretary on the effectiveness of the program implemented by the  
3 eligible entity and the programs instituted by each contractor of the eligible entity, and shall  
4 include in the report a description of each program.

5           SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* –The amount necessary for the initial implementation of  
6 this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Education under the  
7 current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its full  
8 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and  
9 separate item.

10          SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or  
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
12 valid and subsisting.

13          SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
14 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
15 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,