

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 NOV 26 P2:51

SENATE
S. No. **1947**

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Policies and Guidelines for Special Education, as contained in DECS Order No. 117, s. 1987, identified persons who have sensory impairment as special education clientele. This bill seeks to concretize the constitutional mandate which provides that the State shall "promote the right of all citizens to quality education ... and to make such education accessible to all."

It should be recognized that deaf-mute and blind children have different needs compared to their physically able peers, which merit careful attention. The Congressional Commission on education (EDCOM) has revealed the inadequacy of programs and the poor access to special education (SPED) brought about by the limited number of special schools and SPED center in the country. In light of the foregoing, this bill is relevant for it addresses the problem of limited SPED facilities.

This bill aims to establish special education centers in cities and municipalities for differently abled children.*

over
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.



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1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTERS IN CITIES AND
3 MUNICIPALITIES FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED CHILDREN

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

4 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* -- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 establish, maintain, and support Special Education Centers (hereafter "Centers") in every city
6 and municipality for deaf-mute and blind children in consonance with the Constitutional mandate
7 for "the State to take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all."

8 SECTION 2. *Special Education Centers; Creation and Purpose.* -- There shall be created
9 in every city and municipality throughout the country Special Education Centers which shall
10 assist the Department of Education in:

11 (A) Providing deaf-mute and blind children special quality education and related
12 services as well as vocational and transitional services; and

13 (B) Providing deaf-mute and blind children currently in school or who recently left
14 school programs and service to assist them in the transition to independent living, vocational
15 training, and competitive employment.

16 SECTION 3. *Authority of the Secretary of Education to Give Grants to, or Enter into*
17 *Cooperative Arrangements for the Creation of, Special Education Centers.* -- The Secretary of
18 Education is hereby authorized to give grants to, or enter into cooperative arrangement or
19 contracts with public or private non-profit agencies, institutions, or organizations, for the

1 establishment or creation of, Special Education Centers for deaf-mute and blind children and
2 youth; Provided, that a grant made pursuant to this section may be made only for the following
3 or similar programs:

4 (A) Technical assistance to Centers providing educational services to deaf-mute and
5 blind children;

6 (B) Pre-service or in-service training of professionals or related services personnel
7 preparing to serve or serving deaf-mute and blind children;

8 (C) Replication of successful innovative approaches to providing educational or
9 related services to deaf-mute and blind children or children at risk of being certified deaf-mute
10 and blind;

11 (D) Consultative, counseling, and training services for the families of deaf-mute and
12 blind children; and

13 (E) Familiarization of the municipality to be served by a center with the problems and
14 potentialities of such children.

15 SECTION 4. *Provision for Continuing Research to Identify Special Needs of Deaf-Mute*
16 *and Blind Children.* The Special Education Division of the Department of Education, by itself
17 or in association with such organizations or institutions as are determined by the Secretary of
18 Education to be appropriate, shall undertake continuing research to identify and design programs
19 that meet the full range of special needs of deaf-mute and blind children; Provided, that such
20 continuing research shall also be used to develop instructional techniques for use by the Centers
21 that will improve deaf-mute and blind children's acquisition of the skills necessary for transition
22 to independent living, vocational training, or competitive employment; Provided, finally that
23 such continuing research shall further be used to design physical education and therapeutic
24 recreation program for use by the Centers to increase the potential of deaf-mute and blind
25 children for community participation.

26 SECTION 5. *Provision for Training of Personnel.* – The Department of Education shall
27 develop special education courses for adoption and implementation by accredited institutions of

1 higher education and universities; Provided, That such courses shall include subjects on special
2 education, and adaptive physical education; special education supervision and administration;
3 and special education research; Provided, finally, That the Secretary of Education may make
4 grants, which may include scholarships with necessary stipends and allowances, to institutions of
5 higher education and/or universities which already offer such or similar courses.

6 SECTION 6. *Annual Report to the Secretary of Education.* – Centers established,
7 created, or supported under this Act, as well as public or non-profit private agencies or
8 organizations which are recipients of grants under this Act, shall report annually to the Secretary
9 of Education on the number of recipients, by age, severity, and nature of deaf-muteness and
10 blindness; the number of professionals and family members directly served by, or serving in,
11 each Center; and the types of services provided.

12 SECTION 7. *Dissemination of Materials and Information Concerning Working Practices*
13 *with Deaf-Mute and Blind Children.* – The Secretary of Education, in collaboration with the
14 Secretary of Health and Secretary of Labor and Employment, shall disseminate materials and
15 information concerning effective practices in working with, training, and educating deaf-mute
16 and blind children.

17 SECTION 8. *Deaf-Mute and Blind Children, Defined.* – For purposes of this Act, the
18 term “deaf-mute and blind children” shall include the hearing, speech, and eyesight impaired
19 children from birth to eighteen years of age.

20 SECTION 9. *Implementing Guidelines for the Establishment of Special Education*
21 *Centers.* - The Secretary of Education shall promulgate and issue the necessary implementing
22 guidelines for the creation and operation of Special Education Centers within sixty (60) days
23 after the effectivity of this Act.

1 SECTION 10. *Fund for the Establishment and Operation of the Centers.* – Such sums as
2 may be necessary for the initial implementation of this Act are hereby authorized to be
3 appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the sums necessary for the continuous
4 operation of the Centers shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Department of
5 Education.

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

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

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

Approved,