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SENATE

S. No. **2277**

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(in substitution of S.Nos. 275, 1889 and 2156, taking into consideration H. No. 4085)

Prepared by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance with Senators Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., Miriam Defensor Santiago, Juan Edgardo M. Angara and Ralph G. Recto as authors thereof

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Open High
2 School System Act of 2014".

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to broaden access to relevant quality education through the employment of
5 an alternative secondary education program, that will enable the youth to
6 overcome personal, geographical, socio-economic and physical constraints, to
7 encourage them to complete secondary education. This is in line with the
8 Constitutional policy that mandates the State to, "encourage non-formal, informal,
9 and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-
10 of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs" as
11 stated in Article XIV, Section 2, par. 4 of the 1987 Constitution.

12 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – The terms used in this Act are hereby
13 defined as follows:

- 1 (a) *Assistant Teacher or Para Guro* refers to a degree holder in Education
2 who manages a learning center and facilitates the learning process of a
3 group of open learners.
- 4 (b) *Community Adviser or Tagapayong Pansamahan* refers to the adviser
5 from within the community who helps the open learners harmonize their
6 studies with community service and leisure.
- 7 (c) *Learning Center* refers to a room in the mother high school or other
8 designated area where the open learners can conduct researches or
9 gather additional information on topics under study. It can also serve as
10 a multipurpose area which may contain a classroom set-up, a library or
11 a venue where the Source Person can conduct hands-on
12 exercises/activities.
- 13 (d) *Mother High School or Inang Paaralan* refers to a regular secondary
14 school in the regional or division level that functions, among others, as:
- 15 (1) Headquarters of the open learners and teachers;
16 (2) Center for enrolment, evaluation, direct or face-to-face instruction
17 and promotion of open learning;
18 (3) Receiver of donations, instructional materials and reports relative to
19 open learning; and
20 (4) Coordinator of the different learning centers in the community.
- 21 (e) *Open High School System (OHSS)* refers to a system of delivering
22 educational services to high school students, utilizing print, radio,
23 television, and computer-based communications, satellite
24 broadcasting, teleconferencing and other multi-media learning and
25 teaching technologies that allow students to study on their own without
26 having to regularly attend classes in conventional classrooms.
- 27 (f) *Open Learning* refers to the philosophy of learning that is learner-
28 centered and flexible, enabling learners to learn at the time, place and
29 pace which satisfies their circumstances and requirements.

1 (g) *Source Person or Gurong Kadluan* refers to any person with
2 specialized skills in practical or industrial subjects such as farming,
3 handicraft, auto-mechanics, tailoring and other skills.

4 (h) *Teacher or Guro* refers to a regular secondary school teacher of the
5 mother high school who is in charge of direct instruction, evaluation of
6 the learners' progress and keeping of the records of individual
7 learners.

8 (i) *Teacher Adviser or Gurong Tagapatnubay* refers to a regular
9 secondary school teacher of the mother high school who serves as
10 guidance counselor to the open learners, coordinates with the teachers
11 in evaluating the learners' progress, and prepares and submits reports
12 to the authorities concerned.

13 **SEC. 4. *Establishment of the OHSS.*** – The OHSS is hereby established
14 as part of the Department of Education's (DepED) alternative secondary
15 education program to provide access to secondary education through the open
16 learning modality.

17 **SEC. 5. *Coverage.*** – This Act shall apply to public secondary educational
18 institutions authorized to practice open learning through self-instructional
19 materials, multi-channel learning and school-family-community partnership as
20 well as other such institutions that shall be authorized as qualified implementers
21 of the OHSS.

22 All existing programs and projects of the Bureau of Secondary Education
23 (BSE) regarding dropout intervention and poverty alleviation through education
24 shall form part of the OHSS.

1 **SEC. 6. *Learners of the OHSS.*** – The OHSS shall be open to all youth
2 from ages eighteen (18) years old and below who have finished elementary
3 education, as well as high school qualifiers of the Philippine Educational
4 Placement Test (PEPT). Those who wish to go back to finish their high school
5 education but are already beyond 18 years old shall be referred to the Alternative
6 Learning System (ALS) of the DepED.

7 **SEC. 7. *Administration and Function.*** – The DepED, through the BSE,
8 shall administer the OHSS. An OHSS Unit shall be attached to the BSE to assist
9 in performing the following functions:

- 10 (a) Formulate the basic policies of the OHSS;
- 11 (b) Formulate, adopt and supplement programs that ensure effectivity and
12 productivity of the OHSS;
- 13 (c) Monitor and evaluate existing open learning programs for integration
14 with the OHSS;
- 15 (d) Develop and validate prototype instructional materials for open learning;
- 16 (e) Consult and collaborate with other DepED divisions, local government
17 units (LGUs), civil society organizations and other private agencies for
18 the effective operation of the OHSS;
- 19 (f) Promulgate the necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the
20 effective implementation of the OHSS;
- 21 (g) Recommend to the DepED the annual budget of the OHSS for inclusion
22 in the annual General Appropriations Act; and
- 23 (h) Perform such other tasks as may be necessary to attain the objectives
24 of the OHSS.

1 **SEC. 8. Curriculum Content.** – The OHSS shall adopt the K to 12
2 Enhanced Basic Education Program using the standards and learning
3 competencies of different subject areas.

4 **SEC. 9. Personnel Recruitment and Incentives.** – The Teachers and
5 Teacher Advisers who shall render service under the OHSS are those who are
6 currently teaching in the mother high school that is implementing the program.
7 Assistant Teachers shall be hired by the DepED Division Office where the
8 concerned mother high school is under. They shall occupy a plantilla item that is
9 one salary grade lower than Teacher 1. The Teachers, Teacher Advisers and
10 Assistant Teachers shall receive incentives and/or monetary compensation as
11 determined by the BSE.

12 The Source Persons and Community Advisers shall be hired by the LGU
13 in accordance with the guidelines it shall issue on the hiring of personnel:
14 *Provided*, that said guidelines shall be prepared in consultation with the DepED.
15 The Source Person and the Community Adviser shall receive honoraria, to be
16 arranged with the local school board.

17 **SEC. 10. Training of Teaching Staff.** – The DepED shall be responsible
18 for the training of the Teachers, Teacher Advisers, Assistant Teachers and
19 Community Advisers. Training shall be done in coordination with the LGUs and
20 the non-government organizations concerned.

21 Non-teaching stakeholders such as parents and LGU personnel, among
22 others, who are needed to provide support to the OHSS, shall likewise be
23 included in the training program.

1 **SEC. 11. *Establishment of Learning Centers.*** – Every division of the
2 DepED shall establish learning centers in the authorized mother high schools
3 located in their jurisdiction. LGUs may also provide assistance for the
4 establishment of learning centers under the authority of a recognized mother high
5 school.

6 **SEC. 12. *Private Sector Participation.*** – Private educational institutions
7 may establish their own privately-funded learning centers following the standards
8 and criteria provided for in this Act for OHSS, subject to the approval of DepED.

9 **SEC. 13. *Memorandum of Agreement.***- To ensure maximum
10 cooperation towards the success of the OHSS, the DepED, and the Department
11 of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) are encouraged to adopt a
12 Memorandum of Agreement defining their respective roles in the operation of the
13 OHSS.

14 The DepED shall encourage and promote partnership with concerned civil
15 society organizations and other service providers in order to sustain an enabling
16 environment for participatory planning, budgeting and implementation of the
17 OHSS related programs and projects.

18 **SEC. 14. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial
19 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's
20 appropriations of the Open High School Program of the BSE-DepED. Thereafter,
21 the amount necessary for the continued operation of the OHSS shall be included
22 in the DepED's budget in the annual General Appropriations Act.

23 **SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90)
24 Days after the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in consultation with the DILG,

1 shall promulgate the rules and regulations needed for the effective
2 implementation of this Act.

3 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid
4 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and
5 effect.

6 **SEC. 17. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
7 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this
8 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9 **SEC. 18. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
10 after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,