



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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S E N A T E

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 657

Submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture on FEB - 6 2019

Re: House Bill No. 8654

Recommending its approval with amendments, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 2114

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to which were referred House Bill No. 8654, introduced by Rep. Roa-Puno, C., entitled:

"AN ACT
MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE
THE APPROPRIATE ARMCHAIRS TO LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS"

Taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 2114, introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo M. Angara, entitled:

"AN ACT
MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE
THE APPROPRIATE ARMCHAIRS TO LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS"

has considered the same and has the honor to report it back to the Senate with the recommendation that it be approved with the following amendments:

1. ON PAGE 2, LINE 2, SECTION 1, CHANGE THE PHRASE "**LEFT-HANDED ARMCHAIRS**" TO "**NEUTRAL DESKS**";

SECTION 1 SHALL NOW READ AS FOLLOWS:

"SECTION 1. THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE "MANDATORY PROVISION OF NEUTRAL DESKS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ACT."

2. ON PAGE 2, LINES 14 TO 15, SECTION 3, DELETE THE PHRASE STARTING FROM **"THE APPROPRIATE ARMCHAIRS"** ON LINE 14 TO **"POPULATION"** ON LINE 15 AND IN LIEU THEREOF, INSERT THE PHRASE **"NEUTRAL DESKS TO ALL STUDENTS"**.
3. ON THE SAME PAGE, BETWEEN LINES 16 AND 17, SECTION 3, INSERT A NEW PARAGRAPH TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

"NEUTRAL DESK SHALL MEAN A TABLE OR AN ARMCHAIR THAT IS SUITABLE FOR BOTH RIGHT-HANDED AND LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS."

THESE INSTITUTIONS SHALL PROVIDE NEUTRAL DESKS EQUIVALENT TO TEN (10%) OF THE STUDENT POPULATION WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT. HENCEFORTH, SAID INSTITUTIONS ARE MANDATED TO PROVIDE NEUTRAL DESKS TO ALL STUDENTS.

SECTION 3 SHALL NOW READ AS FOLLOWS:

"SECTION 3. IT SHALL BE OBLIGATORY FOR ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, TO PROVIDE NEUTRAL DESKS TO ALL STUDENTS.

NEUTRAL DESK SHALL MEAN A TABLE OR AN ARMCHAIR THAT IS SUITABLE FOR BOTH RIGHT-HANDED AND LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS."

THESE INSTITUTIONS SHALL PROVIDE NEUTRAL DESKS EQUIVALENT TO TEN (10%) OF THE STUDENT POPULATION WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT. HENCEFORTH, SAID INSTITUTIONS ARE MANDATED TO PROVIDE NEUTRAL DESKS TO ALL STUDENTS.

4. ON PAGE 2, LINE 21, DELETE THE WORD **"IMPLEMENTING"** AND IN LIEU THEREOF INSERT **"INCLUDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF"**
5. IN THE TITLE, REPLACE THE PHRASE **"THE APPROPRIATE ARMCHAIRS TO LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS"** WITH **"NEUTRAL DESKS TO STUDENTS.**

THE TITLE SHALL NOW READ AS FOLLOWS:

"AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE NEUTRAL DESKS TO STUDENTS."

Respectfully submitted:



SEN. FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

Chairperson


Vice Chairpersons:



SEN. SONNY M. ANGARA



SEN. SHERWIN GATCHALIAN



SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA

SEN. PAOLO BENIGNO AQUINO IV

SEN. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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SEN. LOREN B. LEGARDA

SEN. EMMANUEL "MANNY" D. PACQUIAO



SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR



SEN. ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV



SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS



SEN. FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN

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SEN. FRANKLIN M. DRILON

Senate Minority Floor Leader



SEN. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

Senate Majority Floor Leader



SEN. RALPH G. RECTO

Senate President Pro-Tempore

SEN. VICENTE C. SOTTO III

Senate President

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



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SENATE
S. B. No. 2114

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO
PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE ARMCHAIRS TO LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

About 10% of the world population is left-handed¹, and every day they struggle to live in a right-handed world.

This bill aims to promote the equal development of students by requiring educational institutions all over the country to provide left-handed armchairs. Currently, left-handed students are left without a choice but to work with right-handed armchairs.

According to studies, a right-handed armchair does not offer left-handed students the same arm support that right-handed students enjoy, causing back, neck and shoulder pain to left-handed students². The inefficient and awkward writing position that some left-handers must adopt in this kind of armchair likewise causes slower handwriting, placing many left-handed students at a real disadvantage on important timed examinations³. Left-handed students are thus placed at a

¹ Price, Michael. (2009). "Left brain knows what the right hand is doing." American Psychological Association, 2009, citing Corballis, Michael, Ph.D. Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2009/01/brain.aspx>

² Holder, M.K., Ph.D. "What's Wrong with this Desk?" Handedness Research Institute, 2003. Retrieved from <http://handedness.org/action/fairdesks.html>

³ Ibid.

learning handicap. Indeed, it is high time that we address the plight of our left-handed students by providing left-handed armchairs.

This bill is a counterpart bill of House Bill No. 7109 filed by Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SONNY ANGARA



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SENATE
S. B. No. 2114

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Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO
PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE ARMCHAIRS TO LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS

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 "*Mandatory Provision*
2 *of Left-Handed Armchairs in Educational Institutions Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth
4 in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual,
5 intellectual, and social well-being. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
6 promote the equal development of students, including those who are left-handed.
7 Towards this end, the State shall require educational institutions to provide
8 appropriate armchairs to address the needs of the left-handed student population.

9 Sec. 3. *Mandatory Provision of Left-Handed Armchairs.* – It shall be obligatory
10 for all educational institutions, both public and private, that make use of armchairs in
11 the classroom to provide the appropriate armchairs for left-handed students,
12 equivalent to at least ten per cent (10%) of the student population.

13 Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from
14 the approval of this Act, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher
15 Education, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall
16 formulate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

1 Sec. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8654

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROA-PUNO, DEL ROSARIO, TINIO, NUNEZ-MALANYAON, REVILLA, PACQUIAO, LAZATIN, BELMONTE (R.), QUIMBO, SACDALAN, DALIPE, UY (R.), TAMBUNTING, CASTRO (F.L.), YU, KHO, ALCALA, SAGARBARRIA, ADIONG, SANDOVAL, TEJADA, HOFER, SY-ALVARADO, LOPEZ (M.L.), ROCAMORA, ROMAN, AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY, ORTEGA (V.N.), CAYETANO, MALAPITAN, SAVELLANO, GARBIN, ATIENZA, SANTOS-RECTO, ORTEGA (P.), DURANO, JAVIER, LANETE, ROBES, GONZALEZ, BOLILIA, ELAGO, NUNEZ-MALANYAON, UY (J.), PLAZA, ANDAYA, MARCOLETA, PALMA, NOEL, ESPINA, PIMENTEL, ALONTE, VERGARA, NOGRALES (J.J.), HERRERA-DY, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, SUAREZ, PADUANO, BRAVO (A.), BERTIZ, CAMPOS, SALON, LOPEZ (B.), MATUGAS, BELARO, GARCIA-ALBANO, HERNANDEZ (F.), ESTRELLA, LEACHON, ALVAREZ (F.), DELOSO-MONTALLA, RAMOS, SAHALI, LAOGAN, PAPANDAYAN, GONZAGA, RELAMPAGOS, BELMONTE (J.C.), UNICO, CARI, YAP (V.) AND LIMKAICHONG, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 956

AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE ARMCHAIRS TO LEFT-HANDED STUDENTS

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

1 SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory
2 Provision of Left-Handed Armchairs in Educational Institutions
3 Act".

4 SEC. 2. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in
5 nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral,
6 spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It is hereby declared
7 the policy of the State to promote the equal development of
8 students, including those who are left-handed. Towards this end,
9 the State shall require educational institutions to provide
10 appropriate armchairs to address the needs of the left-handed
11 student population.

12 SEC. 3. It shall be obligatory for all educational institutions,
13 both public and private, that make use of armchairs in the
14 classroom to provide the appropriate armchairs for left-handed
15 students, equivalent to at least ten percent (10%) of the student
16 population.

17 SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act,
18 the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher
19 Education, and the Technical Education and Skills Development
20 Authority shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing
21 the provisions of this Act.

22 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
23 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
24 circulation.

Approved,