

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*

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**SENATE**

**S. No. 647**



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

19 JUL 22 PT 54

**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

RECEIVED BY

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FREE AND SUITABLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED  
CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The lack of classrooms, physical facilities, teachers, and necessary equipment suitable to the needs of the disabled remains to be an obstruction to the quality of education of the country's children and youth.

Only about 6,000 Special Education (SPED) students are included in regular classes whilst The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that there are over 1.4 million Filipinos with disabilities and about a quarter of which are school-aged children.

Surely, there is a call for demand to provide a sustainable budget allocated for SPED students to equip them with suitable facilities and special equipment enabling these students to be as competent as the students enrolled in regular public schools.

The Act Providing Free and Suitable Education for Handicapped Children seeks to enhance and magnify the importance of quality education particularly for children and youth with special educational needs.

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

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Handicapped Children and  
2 Youth Act of 2019.”

3  
4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall recognize the vital role of the youth  
5 in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual,  
6 intellectual and social well-being. It shall give priority to education, science and  
7 technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social  
8 progress, and promote human liberation and development.

9  
10 Sec. 3. *Special Education Program.* – Pursuant to the foregoing policy, there shall  
11 be established in every school division a comprehensive special education program for  
12 handicapped and gifted children and youth in the pre-elementary, elementary, and  
13 secondary levels throughout the country with the following essential program  
14 components:

15

- 1 (a) Educational diagnosis and assessment essential to the proper identification of  
2 gifted and handicapped children and youth,  
3 (b) Pre-service and continuing in-service training for teaching and nonteaching  
4 personnel to ensure staff competence;  
5 (c) Expanded curriculum development and evaluation to meet the diversified needs  
6 of the clientele;  
7 (d) Continuing research as basis for improvement of instruction at the pre-  
8 elementary, elementary and secondary levels and in planning and service  
9 programming activities including the purchase of special facilities and  
10 equipment;  
11 (e) Parent-education informing them of available services, placement options and  
12 other relevant information to enable them to make informed decisions.

13

14 *Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.* – For purpose of this Act, the term:

15

16 ( a) "Disability" shall refer to one who has a physical or mental impairment that  
17 substantially limits one or more of higher psychological, physiological or anatomical  
18 functions.

19 (b) "Handicap" refers to a disadvantage of an individual, resulting from impairment  
20 or disability, that limits or prevents the function or activity that is considered normal given  
21 the age and gender of the individual.

22 (c) "Secretary" shall refer to the Secretary of the Department of Education.

23

24 *Sec. 5. Organization.* – Every public school division throughout the country shall  
25 organize special classes for gifted and handicapped children and youth in the pre-  
26 elementary, elementary and secondary levels. The organization of pre-school classes for  
27 these children and youth shall be strongly encouraged to ensure early educational  
28 intervention. Every public school division shall also organize special educational centers  
29 which shall include non-formal and outreach programs for out-of-school children and  
30 youth.



1           Sec. 6. *Special Services.* – Special schools and special education centers shall offer  
2 a range of special classes which shall include medical, psychological and social services,  
3 diagnostic counseling, vocational and recreational services. Regular schools within the  
4 school division with special education classes shall have access to the above services.  
5

6           Sec. 7. *Provision for Continuing Research to Identify Special Needs of Handicapped*  
7 *Children and Youth.* – The Special Education Division of the Department of Education, by  
8 itself or in association with such organizations or institutions, shall undertake continuing  
9 research to identify and design a comprehensive special educational program that meets  
10 the full range of special needs of handicapped children and youth: Provided, that such  
11 continuing research shall also be used to develop instructional techniques for use by  
12 special education centers that will improve the acquisition by handicapped children and  
13 youth of skill necessary for transition to independent living, vocational training, or  
14 competitive employment; Provided, finally, that such continuing research shall further be  
15 used to design physical education and therapeutic recreation program for use by special  
16 education centers to increase the potential of handicapped children and youth for  
17 community participation.  
18

19           Sec. 8. *Skills Training.* – Vocational education and training shall be provided and  
20 strengthened to render handicapped children and youth more skillful and competitive.  
21

22           Sec. 9. *Teacher's Item.* – Wherever requirements are met, the salary grade of  
23 teachers handling special education classes shall be two grades higher than that of a  
24 regular teacher and their present items shall be reclassified to special education teacher  
25 items. Items for special education supervisor in each public school division and head  
26 teachers of special education centers shall be created for effective administration and  
27 supervision of the comprehensive special education program.  
28

29           Sec. 10. *Provision for Training of Personnel.* – The Department of Education, in  
30 collaboration with the Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Education and

1 Skill Development Authority, shall develop special education courses for adoption and  
2 implementation by accredited higher education institutions; Provided, that such courses  
3 shall include subjects on:

4 (a) Special education and adaptive physical education;

5 (b) Special education supervision and administration; and

6 (c) Special education research; Provided, finally, that the Secretary may make  
7 grants, which may include scholarships with necessary stipends and  
8 allowances, to institutions of higher education and universities which offer such  
9 or similar courses.

10  
11 Sec. 11. *Teacher Training.* – All teacher training institutions, public or private,  
12 offering Bachelor's degree in Education shall include Special Education subjects as basic  
13 knowledge to students in teacher education.

14  
15 Sec. 12. *Authority of the Secretary of Education.* – The Secretary of Education, is  
16 charged with the administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act and shall  
17 promulgate and issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60)  
18 days from the effectivity of this Act. Relatively, the Secretary is hereby authorized to  
19 organize a group under higher office to intensify the supervision and development efforts  
20 on special education at the elementary and secondary levels, including out-of-school  
21 children and youth.

22  
23 Sec. 13. *Dissemination of Materials and Information Concerning Working Practices*  
24 *with Handicapped Children and Youth.* – The Secretary, in collaboration with the  
25 Secretary of Health and Secretary of Labor and Employment, shall disseminate materials  
26 and information concerning effective practices in working with, training and educating  
27 handicapped children and youth.

28  
29 Sec. 14. *Appropriation.* – The initial amount of Fifty Million Pesos (50,000,000.00)  
30 is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of the President's Organizational Adjustment



1 Fund to carry out the provisions of this Act on the year of its approval. Thereafter, such  
2 sums as may be necessary to sustain and maintain the program mandated in this Act  
3 shall be included in the budget of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports in the  
4 General Appropriations Act.

5  
6       Sec. 15. *Incentives for Private Individuals/Entities.* – Donations, gifts, bequests in  
7 the form of cash, building, land or improvements thereon, from private entities as well as  
8 private corporations, which shall be made to the Department of Education for the  
9 purposes of this Act, shall constitute allowable deduction from the income of the donor  
10 for income tax purposes and shall be exempted from donor’s tax, subject to such  
11 conditions as provided under the National Internal Revenue Code.

12  
13       Sec. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, act, decree, order, proclamation or  
14 regulation or part thereof inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed or modified  
15 accordingly.

16  
17       Sec. 17. *Separability Clause.* – In the event that any provision of this Act, or part  
18 thereof, it is hereby declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions thereof  
19 shall be considered valid and binding.

20  
21       Sec. 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its  
22 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

23  
24       Approved,