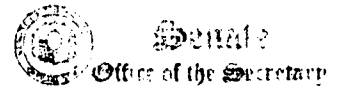


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



20 MAY 27 AIO :27

SENATE

RECEIVED

S. No. 1547

Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE TELEVISION (TV) BROADCASTING EDUCATION
PROGRAM AS AN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM FOR BASIC
EDUCATION (TELEVISION ALS ACT)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In Article XIV, Section 1 of the Constitution, it is declared that 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.

While online classes seem to be the ideal alternative method of learning and education in times of a pandemic, such as the COVID-19, the public-school sector is challenged on different fronts to regularly keep up with its requirements. It is a fact that many of our public-school students are not financially capable of engaging in online classes. The need to continuously deliver quality education to our students even in times of crisis, isolation, unrest or pandemic demands a creative approach through alternative learning systems, such as that proposed in this bill.

Fortunately, televised schooling is a viable alternative for learning. It is sustainable, cheaper and accessible to all, regardless of social class. Students will be able to focus on their tasks, as compared to online classes with gadgets that are gateways to distractions in learning, such as pornography and social media. Lastly,

learning at home gives the parent more ability to monitor and supervise the progress of the student.

True to the slogan that "No one should be left behind ", the intended televised classes goes beyond the schooling problem caused by COVID-19, and offers a solution for all kinds of problematic learners already existing pre-COVID-19, to those who apparently cannot go to school, such as, physically challenged, dropouts, and older learners, to name a few. Televised classes will help all learners to the new norm, reach remote and far flung areas, and ensure that everyone will have the opportunity to academically progress and thrive. The hours for the airing of the TV broadcast education program can be the same as the regular daily classroom time and attuned to their usual routine to ensure quality education. The hours of airing shall be flexible in catering to learners. In a virtual briefing, DepEd Leonor Briones even said that the Presidential Communications Operations Office has offered the government-run television networks as platforms for delivering lessons during the pandemic.¹

The dream of quality education for all at all times can now become a reality through this alternative learning system.

I am pleased to file this bill, which is the Senate counterpart measure of House Bill No. 6708 authored by Hon. Virgilio S. Lacson, the Representative of the Manila Teachers Party-list.

I recommend the approval of this measure.



CYNTHIA VILLAR

¹ Bonz Magsambol, "PCOO Offers Gov't TV, Radio Stations to Deliver Lessons – Briones," Rappler, accessed May 26, 2020, <https://www.rappler.com/nation/260526-pcoo-offers-government-tv-radio-stations-deliver-lessons-coronavirus>)

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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 “Television Alternative
2 Learning System Act.”

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 ensure the continuous delivery of “*quality education for all*” through the alternative
5 learning system of television broadcasting education, even in times of crises,
6 isolation, insurgencies, unrest, pandemics, and other calamities.

7 Sec. 3. *Applicability.* – This Act shall cover all public schools offering
8 elementary, junior and senior high school education.

9 This Act Shall be applicable at all times specially during crisis such as
10 insurgencies, unrests, pandemics, and other natural or man-made calamities that
11 would hinder the physical presence and safety of students in schools.

1 *Sec. 4. Television (TV) Broadcasting Education Program.* – The Television (TV)
2 Broadcast Education Program is an alternative method of education where students
3 can experience learning and attend classes through aerial broadcasting of a live, real
4 time class session.

5 *Sec. 5. Televised Broadcast Education Program.* – The free TV broadcast
6 education program airtime shall be the same as the prescribed hours needed under
7 the regular classroom type mode of the DepEd curriculum to assure quality
8 education.

9 To gain education progression credits, enrollment in person should be made in
10 a school proximate to the students' residence.

11 In case where being physically present in school would extremely be difficult,
12 students enrolled in regular classroom schooling can use the TV broadcast ALS upon
13 DepEd approval.

14 *Sec. 6. Government Institution in Partnership with Television Broadcasting*
15 *Networks.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall partner with TV network/s,
16 national or regional, capable of covering aerial broadcasting to all areas of the
17 country.

18 DepEd should adapt teaching and instructional policies that adheres and
19 complements the peculiarity of every region in respect to its customs, cultures, arts
20 and laws.

21 Government agencies and the National Telecommunication Commission (NTC)
22 are mandated to provide the necessary assistance such as, but not limited to, the
23 acquisition of frequencies or channels and all other requirements needed for the
24 implementation of this Act.

25 *Sec. 7. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this
26 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education
2 shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of
3 this Act within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act.

4 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or portion of this Act is declared
5 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not thereby affected
6 remains in full force and effect.

7 *Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.* – Any laws, decrees, executive orders, rules,
8 regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any
9 provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, and/or modified accordingly.

10 *Sec. 11. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication
11 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12 Approved,