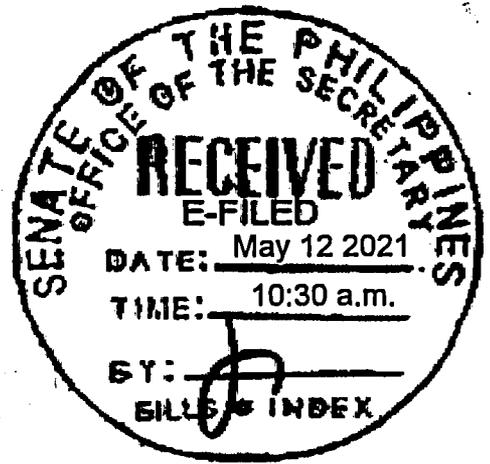


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
S. No. 2180

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE EYE
EXAMINATIONS TO CHILDREN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11358, otherwise known as the National Vision Screening Act, was enacted in July 2019. It is intended to screen the eye vision of kindergarten students and identify eye problems at early childhood.

This proposed measure seeks to complement the said law. It aims to provide comprehensive eye examinations for children already identified at high risk of vision impairment.

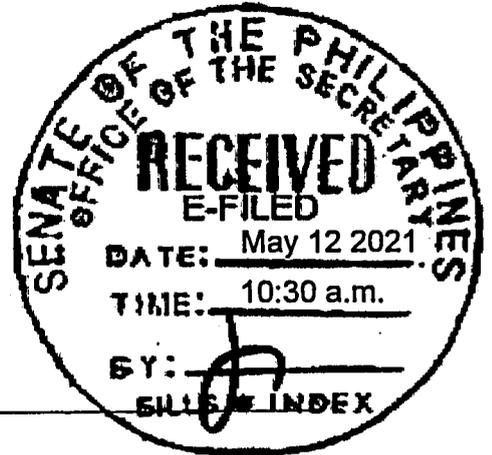
Data from the Philippine Eye Research Institute (PERI) as of 2017 showed that one in 20 pre-schoolers and one in 4 school-aged children experienced eye problems. Over 10% of Filipino children were also expected to have "visual acuity" issues or problems with their vision.

The Philippine Eye Research Institute (PERI) reports that as of 2017, one (1) in twenty (20) pre-schoolers and one (1) in four (4) school-aged children experienced eye problems. With the current distance learning set-up among Filipino students, this number is expected to rise. Thus, the urgency of this measure.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE EYE
EXAMINATIONS TO CHILDREN**

*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 “Children’s Vision
2 Improvement and Learning Readiness Act”.

3 Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms and
4 phrases shall mean as follows:

5 A. *Secretary* – means Secretary of Health;

6 B. *Comprehensive eye examination* – means an assessment of a patient’s
7 history, general medical observation, external and ophthalmoscopic
8 examination, visual acuity, ocular alignment and motility, refraction, and
9 as appropriate, binocular vision or gross visual fields, performed by an
10 optometrist or an ophthalmologist.

11 Sec. 3. *Grants Regarding Comprehensive Eye Examinations for Children.* –

12 A) In General – The Secretary may make grants to cities and municipalities
13 for the purpose of:

14 1) Providing comprehensive eye examinations for children identified or
15 considered at high risk of vision impairment, with priority given to
16 school-based programs for children who are under the age of nine
17 (9);

1 2) Providing subsequent treatment or services necessary to correct
2 vision problems; and

3 3) Developing and disseminating, to parents, teachers, health care
4 practitioners, and the public, educational materials on recognizing
5 signs of visual impairment in children, and the State's vision
6 improvement initiatives.

7 B) Criteria and Coordination.

8 1) Criteria. – The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate
9 professional and consumer organizations including individuals with
10 knowledge of age-appropriate vision services, shall develop criteria –

11 a) Governing the operation of the grant program; and

12 b) For the collection of data related to vision assessment and the
13 utilization of follow up services.

14 C) Application. – A grant may be made under Paragraph (A) only if an
15 application for the grant is submitted to the Secretary and the application
16 is in such form, made in such manner, and contains such information as
17 the Secretary may require, including:

18 1) Information on existing government-funded children's vision
19 screening programs;

20 2) a plan for the use of grant funds, including how funds will be used
21 to complement existing country's efforts;

22 3) a plan to determine if a grant eligible child has received an age-
23 appropriate vision screening; and

24 4) a description of how funds will be used to provide items or services
25 only as a secondary payer to –

26 a) any government compensation program, under an insurance
27 policy, or under any government health benefits program; or

28 b) by any entity that provides health services on a prepaid basis.

29 D) Evaluations. – A grant may be made under paragraph (A) only if the
30 municipality involved agrees that, not later than one (1) year after the
31 date on which amounts under the grant are first received by the
32 municipality, and annually thereafter while receiving amounts under the

1 grant, the municipality will submit to the Secretary an evaluation of the
2 operations and activities carried out under the grant, including:

- 3 1) An assessment of the utilization of vision services and the status of
4 children receiving these services as a result of the activities carried
5 out under the grant;
- 6 2) The collection, analysis, and reporting of children's vision data
7 according to guidelines prescribed by the Secretary; and
- 8 3) Such other information as the Secretary may require.

9 *Sec. 4. Authorization of Appropriations.* – For the purpose of carrying out this
10 Act, such sums as may be deemed appropriate by the Secretary are hereby authorized
11 to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

12 *Sec. 5. Separability Clause.* If any portion of this Act is declared
13 unconstitutional or invalid, the portions or provisions which are not affected shall
14 continue to be in full force and effect.

15 *Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and
16 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed
17 or modified accordingly.

18 *Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
20 circulation.

Approved.