

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL -6 AM 56

SENATE

S. No. 313

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the present Philippine public education set up, a child intending to enroll in Grade I is expected to have some basic reading, writing and socialization skills, thus, may be admitted only when possessing such skills. It is somehow understandable because only when a child is armed with the said simple abilities that school authorities could be assured of greater efficacy in learning and better absorption of information from a child.

What is incomprehensible, however, is the setting of that unwritten standard while government fails to provide for a free pre-school education. The situation, in effect, is making inutile the promise of free elementary and secondary education.

When a child is finally admitted to Grade I despite this deficiency of not undergoing pre-school, it is possible to find him miserably lagging behind his pre-school educated classmates. To remedy the problem, parents are compelled to enroll their kids in private pre-schools usually offering preparatory learning at a very high cost.

Hence, making it even more difficult for the many economically hard-up Filipino families to survive and be assured of the best education for their children, at the same.

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


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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10 JUL -6 AM 10:56

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING FOR A FREE PUBLIC PRE-SCHOOL
EDUCATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “*Free Public Pre-*
2 *School Education Act*”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 provide for a free public pre-school education to all qualified children and to promote
6 quality education at all levels.

7
8 **SEC. 3. *Institutionalization of Pre-School in Public Elementary Education.*** –
9 Free public pre-school education is hereby institutionalized as part of the formal
10 elementary education. It shall commence on the school year immediately following the
11 approval of this Act.

12
13 **SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
14 mean:

15 (a) Free Public Pre-school Education – refers to the pre-school education
16 to be offered to all qualified children by public elementary schools

1 nationwide, which shall be free from payment of tuition and other
2 school fees.

3 (b) Tuition Fee – refers to the charge representing costs of instructions.
4 Training and other related activities and for the pupils' use of the
5 instruction and training facilities.

6 (c) Other School Fees – refer to those charges, which cover other
7 necessary costs supportive of instruction, including but not limited to
8 medical and dental, athletics, library, and laboratory fees.

9
10 **SEC. 5. *Determination and Development of Prep Curriculum.*** – To achieve
11 declared policy of the State, enhance the learning process, and maximize the development
12 of pre-school pupils, a “Prep Curriculum”, designated and formulated by the Department
13 of Education, upon consultation if necessary with Parent-Teachers Associations and pre-
14 schooling learning centers or organizations and other stakeholders, must be made part of
15 the public elementary education system as a separate curriculum level and shall be
16 considered as a prerequisite to Grade I.

17
18 **SEC. 6. *Implementation of Free Public Kindergarten Education.*** – This Act
19 shall be implemented by the Department of Education, and for that purpose shall, within
20 ninety (90) days from the approval hereof, promulgate the necessary implementing rules
21 and regulations,

22
23 **SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount to implement the provisions of this Act
24 shall be charged against the allocation of the Department of Education under the current
25 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the amount necessary to carry out and maintain

1 the free public pre-school education shall be included in the annual General
2 Appropriations Act.

3

4 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof
5 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
6 accordingly.

7

8 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
9 unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

10

11 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
12 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,