

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

8 AUG 14 2:10

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 2542

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Preschool education is the provision of education for children before the commencement of statutory education, usually between the ages of two and five, dependent on the jurisdiction. Preschool is also known as nursery school, day care or kindergarten

The following are the areas of development often the focus in pre-school education:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication, including talking and listening
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Creative and aesthetic development
- Physical development
- Mathematical awareness and development

If a child does not experience going through pre-school, these areas of development may be foregone forever, and the child left to fend for himself in a war with sticks and knives instead of guns.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought, as our children are the future of our country.


MANNY VILLAR
Senator

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AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PRESCHOOL EDUCATION INTO THE BASIC
EDUCATION SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as "Preschool Education Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide equal opportunities for all children to avail of free and compulsory preschool education that effectively promotes physical, social, intellectual, emotional and skills stimulation and values formation to sufficiently prepare them for formal elementary schooling.

Preschool education is vital to the academic and technical development of the Filipino child for it is the period where the young mind's absorptive capacity for learning is at its sharpest.

Sec. 3. Institutionalization of Preschool Education. Preschool education is hereby institutionalized as part of basic education and shall be made mandatory for all five-year old children. It shall be implemented at the start of the next school year immediately following the effectivity of this Act.

Prior to compliance with the mandatory preschooling of five-year old children as provided under this Act, the National Government shall continue to support the day care program under Republic Act 8980, otherwise known as the Early Childhood Care and Development Act, subject to the financial assistance to be provided by the local government units and the technical assistance and the accreditation system to be extended by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in consultation with the DepED.

On the third year following the effectivity of this Act, no child shall be admitted to Grade I without having attended at least one (1) year of preschool education, subject to the qualifications and guidelines to be promulgated and prescribed by the DepED.

Sec. 4. Definition of Terms. The terms used in this Act are defined as follows:

- (a) *BEE* – refers to the Bureau of Elementary Education;
- (b) *DepED* – refers to the Department of Education;
- (c) *Preschool Education* – shall be understood in this Act to mean one year of schooling before Grade I to be made available and compulsory to all five-year old children;

- (d) *Preschool Children* – refer to five-year old children enrolled in preschool education;
- (e) *Other School Fees* – refer to those charges which cover other necessary costs supportive of instruction, including but not limited to medical and dental, athletics, library, and laboratory fees;
- (f) *Tuition Fee* – refers to the charge representing costs of instructions, training and other related activities and for the pupils' use of the instruction and training facilities.

Sec. 5. *Implementing Agency.* The authority to regulate the organization, operation and/or implementation of the preschool education program shall be vested upon the DepED, through the BEE.

Sec. 6. *Duties, Powers and Functions.* The DepED shall have the following duties, powers and functions:

- (a) To oversee and supervise the implementation of the preschool education program throughout the country;
- (b) To authorize the opening of preschool education classes in all public and private schools, including the registration and accreditation of private preschool institutions;
- (c) To develop the curriculum for preschool education consistent with the universally accepted norms and standards, including values formation, and to periodically review such for purposes of upgrading;
- (d) To conceive, develop and extend a regular training program to preschool education teachers to ensure constant updating of their knowledge in modern trends, methodologies and concepts on early childhood education;
- (e) To prescribe the necessary qualifications for the hiring and accreditation of teachers who will handle the preschool education program; and
- (f) To formulate the necessary guidelines and regulatory standards in connection with the operation of private preschool institutions.

Sec. 7. *Special Training for Preschool Teachers.* The DepED shall prescribe the standards and qualifications for preschool teachers and afford for their necessary special training.

Sec. 8. *Salary of Preschool Teacher.* The public preschool teacher shall receive a monthly basic salary based on the compensation of public school teachers under the Salary Standardization Law, as amended, in addition to other benefits prescribed by law.

In the case of private preschool teacher, he/she shall receive the salary and other benefits prescribed under the Labor Code of the Philippines.

Sec. 9. *Payment of Tuition and Other School Fees.* The public preschool education program shall be free from tuition and other school fees.

Tuition and other school fees imposed by private preschool institutions shall be subject to the rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Department.

Sec. 10. *Appropriations.* The amount of Seven Billion Pesos (P7,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the first year of the implementation of this Act which shall commence in school year 2009/2010. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of the preschool education program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as part of the budget of the DepED.

Sec. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Interior and Local Government and both Houses of Congress, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 12. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions thereof.

Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.* Pertinent provisions of Republic Act 8980 and all other laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 14. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,