



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5367

BY REPRESENTATIVES ANGARA, DEL MAR, DOMOGAN, VILLAFUERTE, TEODORO, APOSTOL, GONZALES (N.), REYES (C.), BICHARA, CHATTO, JAAFAR, CAJAYON, DE GUZMAN, LAGMAN, PIAMONTE, PANCRUDO, RODRIGUEZ, ABAYA, ALFELOR, ANGPING, ANTONINO-CUSTODIO, BINAY, BONOAN-DAVID, COSCOLLUELA, CUA (J.), FUA, GOLEZ, GONZALEZ, GULLAS, HONTIVEROS-BARAQUEL, LACSON, MANDANAS, MATUGAS, MIRAFLORES, NICOLAS, PADILLA, PINGOY, SAN LUIS, UY (R.S.), VALENCIA, YAP, ZAMORA (M.), ZIALCITA, ZUBIRI, SUSANO, SY-ALVARADO, ABANTE, MENDOZA, ALMARIO, PUENTEVELLA, REYES (V.), UY (R.A.), CODILLA, ROMAN, CLARETE, LAPUS, PRIETO-TEODORO, SOON-RUIZ AND LAZATIN, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1452

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

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 “Preschool
2 Education Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to provide equal opportunities for all children to avail of free and
5 compulsory preschool education that effectively promotes physical, social,

1 intellectual, emotional and skills stimulation and values formation to
2 sufficiently prepare them for formal elementary schooling. This Act shall apply
3 to elementary school system, being the first stage of compulsory formal
4 education.

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

8 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The terms used in this Act are defined as
9 follows:

10 (a) "BEE" refers to the Bureau of Elementary Education.

11 (b) "DepEd" refers to the Department of Education.

12 (c) "Preschool education" shall be understood in this Act to mean one
13 (1) year of schooling before Grade I, to be made available and compulsory to
14 all five (5)-year old children.

15 (d) "Preschool children" refers to five (5)-year old children enrolled in
16 preschool education.

17 (e) "Other school fees" refers to those charges which cover other
18 necessary costs supportive of instruction including, but not limited to, medical
19 and dental, athletics, library and laboratory fees.

20 (f) "Tuition fee" refers to the charge representing costs of instructions,
21 training and other related activities and for the pupils' use of the instruction
22 and training facilities.

23 SEC. 4. *Institutionalization of Preschool Education.* – Preschool
24 education is hereby institutionalized as part of basic education and shall be
25 made mandatory for all five (5)-year old children. It shall be implemented on a
26 staggered basis starting on the school year immediately following the
27 effectivity of this Act.

1 Prior to compliance with the mandatory preschooling of five (5)-year
2 old children as provided for under this Act, the national government shall
3 continue to support the day care program under Republic Act No. 8980,
4 otherwise known as the Early Childhood Care and Development Act, subject to
5 the financial assistance to be provided by the local government units and the
6 technical assistance and the accreditation system to be extended by the
7 Department of Social Welfare and Development, in consultation with the
8 DepEd.

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

13 SEC. 5. *Implementing Agency.* – The authority to regulate the
14 organization, operation and/or implementation of the preschool education
15 program shall be vested upon the DepEd, through the BEE.

16 SEC. 6. *Duties, Powers and Functions.* – The DepEd shall have the
17 following duties, powers and functions:

18 (a) To oversee and supervise the implementation of the preschool
19 education program throughout the country;

20 (b) To authorize the opening of preschool education classes in all
21 public and private schools, including the registration and accreditation of
22 private preschool institutions and order closure of the same if found violating
23 DepEd rules and regulations and/or found operating without a permit or
24 certificate of recognition;

25 (c) To develop the curriculum for preschool education consistent with
26 the universally accepted norms and standards, including values formation, and
27 to periodically review such for purposes of upgrading;

1 (d) To conceive, develop and extend a regular training program to
2 preschool education teachers to ensure constant updating of their knowledge in
3 modern trends, methodologies and concepts on early childhood education;

4 (e) To prescribe the necessary qualifications for the hiring and
5 accreditation of teachers who will handle the preschool education program;
6 and

7 (f) To formulate the necessary guidelines and regulatory standards in
8 connection with the operation of private preschool institutions.

9 SEC. 7. *Special Training for Preschool Teachers.* -- The DepEd shall
10 prescribe the standards and qualifications for preschool teachers and afford for
11 their necessary special training.

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

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

18 SEC. 9. *Free Preschool Education.* -- The public preschool education
19 program shall be free from tuition and other school fees.

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

22 SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* -- The Secretary of Education shall
23 immediately include in the Department's program the operationalization of the
24 compulsory preschool education, the initial funding of which shall be charged
25 against the current appropriations for preschool education of the Department.
26 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of
27 the preschool program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
28 Act.

1 SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd, in
2 consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the
3 Department of Budget and Management, the Department of the Interior and
4 Local Government and both Houses of Congress, shall promulgate the
5 implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity
6 of this Act.

7 SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held
8 invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity
9 of the other provisions hereof.

10 SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Pertinent provisions of Republic Act No.
11 8980 and all other laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations
12 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
13 or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,

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