



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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

23 JUL 17 P2 :41

SENATE
S. No. 2315

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING NURSERY AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES PROXIMATE TO
PUBLIC SCHOOLS, PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE
FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Nursery and childcare facilities enhance the cognitive, social, emotional, and physical needs of children for their future learning. However, such facilities remain unaffordable or inaccessible for many Filipino parents who are especially working as public school teachers.

Parents working as public school teachers silently grapple with the challenge of balancing their professional responsibility with the pressure of ensuring the well-being of their children. Juggling both responsibilities lead to increased stress levels, less time for family, and even financial strain. It is imperative to improve the welfare of teachers, as they help actualize the potential of the youth for social mobility and a better future.

The establishment of childcare institutions would be beneficial to the learning of children. According to the UNICEF's 2019 Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) National Report of the Philippines, Grade 5 students with Early Childhood Education (ECE) were less likely to repeat a grade level and they received relatively higher test

scores compared to those who did not gain ECE experience¹. There is also a disparity in the access to ECEs. It was observed that 54% of the students who participated in ECE for two years or more came from families of high socio-economic status, while only 39% came from lower-income brackets². Furthermore, in private schools, 95% of students joined a one-year ECE program, while the percentage for public school students was 84%³. Therefore, despite its benefits to families, nursery and childcare facilities are not accessible to all.

Hence, this bill will establish facilities that will help increase learning opportunities for children, increase the productivity of teachers, and mitigate the disparities in early childhood care. After all, every child should have a fruitful foundation for learning, and every teacher's dedication and hard work should be celebrated.

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



MARK A. VILLAR

¹ Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics. (2019). *Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics 2019 Supplementary Report of Philippines*. Retrieved from https://www.seapl原因.org/images/Publication/2023/2023-02-07_Myanmar_Report/SEA-PLM%202019%20Policy%20Brief%20-%20ECE.pdf.

² Ibid.


³ Ibid.

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

1 Section 1. *Declaration of Policy* - It is the policy of the State to promote the
2 welfare, safety, and development of teachers by providing accessible, affordable, and
3 quality nursery and childcare services in schools or within its vicinity.

4 This Act seeks to recognize the valuable role teachers play in molding future
5 generations and to support their work-life balance effectively.

6

7 *Sec. 2. Definition of Terms* -

8 a) Nursery and Childcare Facility - refers to a structured learning and care
9 environment where young children receive age-appropriate care and
10 education from qualified professionals;

11 b) Teacher - refers to individuals engaged in the art and science of teaching
12 public schools within the Philippines;

13 c) School - refers to any public educational institution offering pre-elementary,
14 elementary, secondary or tertiary education in the Philippines.

1 *Sec. 3. Establishment of Childcare Facilities Near Public Schools -*

2 a) All public schools are mandated to establish a nursery and childcare facility
3 within their premises or within reasonable vicinity not more than one (1)
4 kilometer from the school for the benefit of their teachers.

5 b) The nursery and childcare facilities should be designed based on the
6 standards set by the DepEd, the DSWD, and in consultation with the Local
7 Government Units (LGUs) concerned.

8 c) The school-based nursery and childcare facilities should be supervised and
9 monitored by DepEd and DSWD in accordance with their respective mandates.

10
11 *Sec. 4. Incentive Program for Participation -* To encourage maximum
12 participation, the DepEd shall create an initiative and incentive program for schools
13 that comply with the provisions of this Act. The incentives may include, but not limited
14 to, tax credits, subsidies, or awards.

15
16 *Sec 5. Annual Evaluation -* An annual evaluation shall be conducted by the
17 DepEd and the DSWD to assess the effectiveness, affordability, and accessibility of
18 these childcare facilities, monitor service delivery, and identify areas for improvement.

19
20 *Sec. 6. Funding. -* The necessary funding for the implementation of this Act
21 shall be sourced from the DepEd and the DSWD's allocation in the annual General
22 Appropriations Act (GAA). Additional funds for the nursery and childcare facilities may
23 be sourced from donations, sponsorships, and other legally permissible means, subject
24 to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

25
26 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. -* The DepEd, in coordination
27 with the DSWD and relevant stakeholders, shall develop the implementing rules and
28 regulations to guide the establishment, management, and funding of the nursery
29 and childcare facilities, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

30
31 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause. -* Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be
32 declared unconstitutional or invalid and shall not have the effect of nullifying other

1 portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still
2 subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

3 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
4 memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent
5 with the Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

6 *Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall be take effect fifteen (15) days after
7 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,