



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4085

BY REPRESENTATIVES GONZALES, CASTELO, COJUANGCO (K.), UNGAB, NAVA (J.), ALMARIO, LOBREGAT, BATAOIL, PIAMONTE, VIOLAGO, QUISUMBING, ONG, SY-ALVARADO, ROMAN, DEL MAR, TING, TAN (A.), ILAGAN, VILLARICA, TEJADA, ALMONTE, HAGEDORN, RIVERA, BELLO (S.), NOGRALES, ABUEG, GARCIA (G.), RAMOS, GONZALEZ, PAEZ, KHO, ALEJANO, HOFER, ABU, ALPING, SUANSING, DELA CRUZ, MACROHON-NUÑO, FORTUNO, GERONA-ROBREDO, ARENAS, PICHAY, CERAFICA, ROMUALDO, GATCHALIAN (W.), ABELLANOSA AND AGARAO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 122

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES 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 “Open High
2 School System Act”.
- 3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared to be the policy
4 of the State to broaden access to relevant quality education through the
5 employment of an alternative learning system that would enable the youth,
6 including adults, to overcome geographical, socioeconomic and/or physical
7 constraints to encourage them to complete secondary education. To achieve
8 this, the State shall ensure the accessibility of education services to all Filipino
9 citizens in its various modalities including out-of-school study programs for
10 primary and secondary levels, particularly those that respond to community
11 needs, promoting further the welfare of the nation.

1 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

2 (a) *Distance Learning Program* refers to an educational program, the
3 teaching and learning processes of which are accomplished through
4 self-instructional materials and which allow independent study, multi-channel
5 learning and school-family-community partnership;

6 (b) *Guro* refers to a regular secondary school teacher of the “inang
7 paaralan” who is in charge of direct instruction, evaluation of student progress
8 and keeping of the records of individual learners;

9 (c) *Gurong kadluan* refers to a resource person with specialized skills
10 in practical or industrial subjects such as farming, handicraft, automechanism,
11 tailoring and other skills;

12 (d) *Gurong tagapatnubay* refers to a regular secondary school teacher
13 of the “inang paaralan” who serves as guidance counselor to the distance
14 learners, coordinates with the “guro” and “para guro” in evaluating the
15 students’ progress, and prepares and submits reports to the authorities
16 concerned;

17 (e) *Inang paaralan* or *mother high school* refers to a regular secondary
18 school in the regional or division level that functions, among others, as:

19 (1) Headquarters of the distance learners and teachers;

20 (2) Center for enrollment, evaluation, direct or face-to-face instruction
21 and promotion of distance learning;

22 (3) Receiver of donations, instructional materials and reports relative to
23 distance learning; and

24 (4) Coordinator of the different learning centers in the community;

25 (f) *Open High School System (OHSS)* refers to a system of delivering
26 educational services to high school students utilizing print, radio, television
27 and computer-based communications, satellite broadcasting, teleconferencing,
28 and other multi-media learning and teaching technologies that allow students to

1 study on their own without having to regularly attend classes in conventional
2 classrooms;

3 (g) *Para guro* refers to a degree holder or a resident of a community
4 who has gained a minimum of two (2) years of college education who manages
5 a learning center and facilitates the learning process of a group of distance
6 learners; and

7 (h) *Tagapayong pansamahan* refers to the adviser of a club in the
8 community who helps learners harmonize study with community service and
9 leisure.

10 SEC. 4. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to public secondary
11 educational institutions with existing distance learning programs and all other
12 such institutions that shall be authorized as qualified implementers of the
13 OHSS.

14 All existing programs and projects of the Bureau of Secondary
15 Education (BSE) regarding dropout intervention and poverty alleviation
16 through education shall form part of the OHSS.

17 SEC. 5. *Establishment of the OHSS.* – The OHSS is hereby
18 established as part of the Department of Education’s alternative secondary
19 education program to provide access to secondary education through the
20 distance learning modality.

21 SEC. 6. *Clientele of the OHSS.* – The OHSS shall be open to all youth
22 and adults who have finished elementary education and high school qualifiers
23 of the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT).

24 SEC. 7. *Administration and Functions.* – The Department of
25 Education (DepED), through the BSE, shall administer the OHSS. An OHSS
26 unit shall be attached to the BSE to assist in performing the following
27 functions:

- 1 (a) Formulate the basic policies of the OHSS;
- 2 (b) Formulate, adopt and supplement programs that will make the
3 OHSS effective and productive;
- 4 (c) Monitor and evaluate existing distance learning programs for
5 integration with the OHSS;
- 6 (d) Develop and validate prototype instructional distance learning
7 materials;
- 8 (e) Consult and collaborate with other DepED divisions, local
9 government units (LGUs), civil society organizations and other private
10 agencies for the effective operation of the OHSS;
- 11 (f) Promulgate the necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the
12 effective implementation of the OHSS;
- 13 (g) Recommend to the DepED the annual budget of the OHSS for
14 inclusion in the annual General Appropriations Act; and
- 15 (h) Perform such other tasks as may be necessary to attain the
16 objectives of the OHSS.

17 **SEC. 8. Curriculum Content.** – The OHSS shall adopt the National
18 Secondary Education Curriculum (NSEC) using the Philippine Secondary
19 Schools Learning Competencies (PSSLC).

20 The DepED’s BSE Curriculum Development Division, in collaboration
21 with the University of the Philippines (UP) – Open Educational System, may
22 modify the curriculum and devise a separate rating system and develop
23 appropriate instructional strategies and materials to suit the psychosocial needs
24 and physical condition of anti-social learners who are detained in correctional
25 institutions. In the discharge of this function, the BSE shall consult with
26 professional psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and other experts in
27 dealing with children who are in conflict with the law.

1 SEC. 9. *Personnel Recruitment and Incentives.* – The DepED shall
2 determine the qualifications of personnel recruited to work under the OHSS.

3 The teachers or “guro” and “gurong tagapatnubay” shall receive
4 incentives and monetary compensation as determined by the BSE-DepED,
5 while the “para guro”, “gurong kadluan” and “tagapayong pansamahan” shall
6 receive honoraria, to be arranged with the local school board.

7 The LGUs concerned shall hire the “para guro”, “gurong kadluan” and
8 “tagapayong pansamahan” in accordance with the guidelines that they shall
9 issue on the hiring of personnel: *Provided*, That said guidelines shall be
10 prepared in consultation with the DepED.

11 SEC. 10. *Training of Teaching Staff.* – The DepED shall take charge
12 of the training of the “guro”, “gurong tagapatnubay”, “para guro”, “gurong
13 kadluan” and “tagapayong pansamahan”. The training of the “para guro”,
14 “gurong kadluan” and “tagapayong pansamahan” shall be in coordination with
15 the LGUs and nongovernment organizations concerned.

16 Nonteaching stakeholders such as parents and LGU personnel, among
17 others, who are needed to provide support to the OHSS shall likewise be
18 included in the training program.

19 SEC. 11. *Establishment of Distance Learning Centers.* – Pending the
20 establishment of distance learning centers in the “inang paaralan” in the
21 community, the DepED shall establish at least two (2) pilot centers in each
22 region.

23 A center shall be housed in a room or a building where the distance
24 learners can conduct researches or gather additional information on topics
25 under study. It may also serve as a venue where the “gurong kadluan” can
26 conduct hands-on activities.

1 SEC. 12. *Memorandum of Agreement.* – The DepED, the UP – Open
2 Educational System, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government
3 (DILG) shall execute and adopt a Memorandum of Agreement defining their
4 respective roles in the operation of the OHSS to ensure maximum cooperation
5 towards the success of the OHSS.

6 SEC. 13. *Private Sector Participation.* – Private educational
7 institutions may establish their own privately-funded distance learning centers
8 following the standards and criteria provided for in this Act for the OHSS,
9 subject to the approval of the DepED.

10 The DepED shall encourage and promote close partnership with
11 concerned civil society organizations and other service providers in order to
12 sustain an enabling environment for participatory planning, budgeting and
13 implementation of the OHSS-related programs and projects.

14 SEC. 14. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial
15 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's
16 appropriation of the Distance Learning Program of the DepED. Thereafter, the
17 amount necessary for the continued operation of the OHSS shall be included in
18 the DepED's budget in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19 SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90)
20 days after the effectivity of this Act, the DepED, in consultation with the DILG
21 and the UP – Open Educational System, shall promulgate the rules and
22 regulations needed for the effective implementation of this Act.

23 SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held
24 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in
25 force and effect.

1 SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
2 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this
3 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
5 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general
6 circulation.

Approved,

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