Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 860

Introduced by Hon. Aurelio "Oyie" Matias Umali

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Gifted children constitute the most important human resource of a nation. It is therefore imperative that programs and services for the optimum development of their potential be given due consideration.

The education of the gifted child is anchored on the 1987 Philippine Constitution specifically Article XIV, Section 1, 11 and 13. This is further strengthened by Education Act of 1982, Section 1.

However, the aforecited legislations do not explicitly cite any specific and comprehensive provisions on the identification and nurturance of the Filipino gifted child in the field of science and technology. Likewise, there are no specific provisions for the development of the gifted child to become a skillful and purposive person able to plan and manage his/her own life and attain his/her highest potential in society.

It is estimated that three percent of the total population constitute giftedness. Thus, in the Philippines where there are 11.5 million elementary school children, there should be at least be 345,000 probable gifted children. Enrollment data reveals, however, that only 44,868 gifted/fast learners have been identified and are being served in special education classes in both public and private schools in the 18 regions of the country.

In view thereof, there is a great need to provide for an appropriate, quality and sustainable programs and services for the gifted children especially for the underserved. The passage of this bill will pave the way for the identification and nurturance of the gifted children and the provision of quality services appropriate for their educational needs in order to become globally competitive.

AURELIO "OYIE" MATIAS UMALI
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3rd District, Nueva Ecija

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO GIFTED CHILDREN AND SCIENCE-ORIENTED YOUTH, PROVIDING 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 the **"Gifted Children and Science-Oriented Youth Act."**

SECTION 2. **DECLARATION OF POLICY.** It is the policy of the State to recognize and discharge its responsibilities to: strengthen and actively promote its total development (Article XV, Sec. 1 of the 1987 Constitution); provide scholarships, grants-in-aid, other forms of incentives to deserving science students, researchers, scientists, investors, technologists, and specially gifted citizens (Article XIV, Sec. 11 of the 1987 Constitution); create an environment where their expertise can be developed and utilized for the benefit of the Filipino people; provide the structure to implement the same; and appropriate funds to support the program on a sustained basis.

In view of the foregoing, this Act seeks to:

a) Identify the gifted Filipino children and science-oriented youth at the earliest age possible;

b) Establish a Center for the identification and nurturance of Filipino gifted children and science-oriented youth;

c) Provide scholarship grants and other forms of assistance for identified Filipino gifted children and science-oriented youth;

d) Provide fund for research and development, curriculum development, training of parents, teachers and other personnel and the necessary infrastructure to carry out the objectives and programs for the nurturance of the identified Filipino gifted children and science-oriented youth;

e) Provide incentives to government institutions and the private sector that will participate in the implementation of this Act; and

f) Establish and maintain linkages with national and international institutions involved in programs on giftedness.

SECTION 4. **DEFINITION OF TERMS.** For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as:

a) **Gifted Children** – are those who have at least above average general intellectual ability and who have demonstrated superior achievements and/or potential ability in any of the following areas:

1) **Verbal Linguistic Intelligence** is the ability to use with clarity, the core of operations of language. Poets, writers, journalists, and broadcasters/talk show hosts may exhibit linguistic intelligence;
2) **Logical/Mathematical Intelligence** is the ability to reason, recognize and solve significant problems explore abstract systems and explain physical reality. Scientists, mathematicians, researchers, and engineers may demonstrate logical and mathematics intelligence;
3) **Body Kinesthetic Intelligence** is the control of one's body motions, gross and fine motor dexterity. Actors, dancers, athletes, acrobats may possess body/kinesthetic intelligence;
4) **Visual/Spatial Intelligence** is the ability to perceive space accurately, conjure mental images and transform it to produce graphic likeness of the spatial information. Painters, sculptors, cartographers, surgeons, architects, navigators have highly developed spatial intelligence.
5) **Musical/Rhythmic Intelligence** is the ability to use the set of musical elements: pitch, rhythm and timbre and the qualities of a tone. Musical intelligence maybe demonstrated by singers, composers, instrumentalists, conductors;
6) **Leadership Ability** refers to the inter-personal and intra-personal relationship skills, capacity to influence others, skills in planning, judgment and problem solving. Highly developed leadership ability is seen, for example, among student achievers in various fields, executives, legislators.

b) **Science-oriented youth** – are those who have demonstrated at least above average performance in science and mathematics and superior ability in the following areas:

1) intellectual ability; and
2) logical/mathematical ability

c) **Identification** – is the process of assessing potential or demonstrated giftedness or science-orientedness through instruments approved or developed by the Center provided for in Section 6 (f) of this Act.

d) **Nurturance** – is a process of providing opportunities to develop and enhance the full potential of identified Filipino gifted children and science-oriented youth.

SECTION 5. **CENTER FOR THE GIFTED CHILDREN AND SCIENCE ORIENTED YOUTH.** A Center that will carry out the aforementioned objectives shall be established by the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines (U.P.). The Center shall perform its functions in coordination with relevant government agencies and the private sector.

The Center for the gifted children and science-oriented youth shall be headed by an executive director and such other needed personnel as may be determined by the U.P. Board of Regents.

SECTION 6. **PROGRAM COMPONENTS.** In pursuance of the objectives of this Act as embodied in Section 3, the Center, in coordination with relevant government agencies and the private sector, shall implement the following program components:

a) **Identification and placement of gifted children and science-oriented youth.** The Center shall ensure proper assessment, identification and placement of gifted children and science-oriented youth in appropriate educational institutions and assist them in securing proper job/work placement in the country.

b) **Scholarship** – The Center shall provide scholarship and other forms of assistance for gifted children and science-oriented youth and assist them in securing scholarships/study grants in colleges and universities.

c) **Training for teachers and other personnel.** The Center shall provide continuing training programs for teachers, guidance counselors, psychologists, administrators, and other personnel to upgrade their competence identifying and nurturing the gifted children and science-oriented youth.

d) **Training of parents on parenting and nurturing of gifted children and science-oriented youth.** Since the home plays a vital role in the development of children, the Center shall provide parents training in nurturing and counseling of gifted children and science-oriented youth.

e) **Curriculum development.** The Center shall provide for the development of learner-appropriate curriculum and instructional materials for gifted children and science-oriented youth.

f) **Development of assessment tools**. The Center shall provide for the development of national assessment tools for the identification of gifted children and science-oriented youth.

g) **Accreditation.** The Center shall accredit schools, institutions or agencies providing education programs for the gifted children and science-oriented youth, except for those which are already recognized and accredited by the Department of Education and the Philippine High School System under the Department of Science and Technology.

The Center shall assist accredited schools/institutions or agencies to secure grants for their programs.

h) **Research and Development.** The Center shall formulate a research and development program for gifted children and science-oriented which will serve as a framework to guide relevant government agencies and the private sector.

i) **Linkages and networking.** The Center shall establish and develop internal and external linkages and networks with government and non-government organizations, international organizations and agencies involved in providing programs for the gifted children and science-oriented youth.

SECTION 7. **ADVISORY COUNCIL.** The Center shall have an Advisory Council to ensure the effective coordination and implementation of the program established under this Act.

The Advisory Council shall be chaired by the President of U.P. System and co-chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Secretary of the Department of Education (DE) with the following members: 1) Chairman of the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts; 2) Executive Director of the Philippine Science High School System; 3) Director of the Philippine High School for the Arts; and 4) two private sector representatives from industry and institutions involved in providing programs for gifted children and science-oriented youth appointed by the U.P. Board of Regents.

SECTION 8. **INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS/ENTITIES.** Donations to the Center shall be deposited in a trust fund to be used in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Gifts, bequest in the form of cash, building, land or improvements thereon from private entities or individuals in support of programs for gifted children and science-oriented youth, as certified by the Center, shall be exempt from the donor's tax. Provided, however, that not more than thirty percent (30%) of said gifts shall be used by such donee for administration purposes. The same donation shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income of the donor. Said tax exemptions shall be granted in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

SECTION 9. **APPROPRIATIONS.** The Amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 10. **NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF GIFTEDNESS.** In recognition of the efforts and contributions of the gifted, the President of the Philippines shall declare one week each year as the National Giftedness Week.

SECTION 11. **IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR).** The University of the Philippines in collaboration with DOST and DECS shall formulate the Rules and Regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 12. **SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof, which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. **REPEALING CLAUSE.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. **EFFECTIVITY.** The Act shall take effect on the day following its complete publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.