Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1003



Introduced by ***Representative Juan Miguel F. Zubiri***

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our country's school system is still lacking in so many ways. Though many Filipino children demonstrate an above average general intellectual ability and potential ability in the many fields of science and mathematics, our school system cannot give merit to this student. Thus students are forced to accept however little the school can offer

Though it is the responsibility of the state to provide scholarships, grant-in-aids, and other forms of incentives to deserving science students, researchers, scientists, investors, technologists and specially-gifted children (Article XIV, Sec. 11, 1987 Constitution) and to create an environment where their expertise can be developed and utilized for the benefit of the Filipino people, this is not always recognized.

A bill that will establish a national program for Filipino gifted children and science-oriented youth is needed.

Support for this bill is earnestly requested.

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3RD District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT
CREATING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO GIFTED CHILDREN AND SCIENCE-ORIENTED YOUTH, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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"

SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY. It is the policy of the State to recognize and discharge its responsibilities to strengthen and actively promote the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation 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 structures to implement the same; and appropriate funds to support the program on a sustained basis.

SEC. 3. OBJECTIVES. In line with the above policy, the State shall pursue the following objectives:

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 funds for research and development, curriculum development, training or parents, teachers and other personnel and the necessary infrastructure to carry out the objectives and programs in nurturing 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 progress on giftedness.

SEC. 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 achievement and/or potential ability in any of the following areas:

a. Verbal/Linguistic Intelligence is the ability to use with clarity the core operations of language. Poets, writers, journalists, and broadcasters/talk show hosts may exhibit linguistic intelligence;

b. Logical/Mathematical Intelligence is the ability to reason, recognize and solve insignificant problems, explore abstract systems and explain physical reality. Scientists, mathematicians, researchers, and engineers may demonstrate logical and mathematical intelligence;

c. Body Kinesthetic Intelligence is the control of one's body motion, gross and fine motor dexterity. Actors, dancers, athletes, acrobats may possess body/kinesthetic intelligence;

d. 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;

e. 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;

f. Leadership Ability refers to 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.

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

   a. intellectual ability; and
   b. logical mathematical ability

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

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

SEC. 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 shall be determined by the U.P. Board of Regents.

SEC. 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 in identifying and nurturing the gifted children and science-oriented youth.

The Advisory Council shall be chaired by the President of the 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, Culture and Sports (DECS) 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 Science 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.

SEC. 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 donations 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.

SEC. 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.

SEC. 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 National Giftedness Week.

SEC. 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.

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

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

Approved.