

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1682**



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Introduced by Representative Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The term education in the arts may refer to the training of aspiring professionals in the visual and performing arts such as painting, sculpture, graphics, music, dance, theater and others which today is provided mainly by a few colleges, universities and private schools and conservatories.

As in any other fields, it is best for our artists to start young, but we lack specialized public institutions that provide quality training to our school children in the field of arts. All over the country, Mandaue City is very fortunate to have the only school of this kind in the region, except of course private music and art schools affordable only to a few well-to-do families.

The Mandaue City Elementary School for the Arts situated in Casili, Mandaue City is a government institution under the Department of Education designed to implement the prescribed general elementary education with a special focus on the arts to complement the sciences in the improvement of the quality of life. The establishment of such a school is a recognition of the arts as a part of integrated human formation. It responds to the theory that it can help fulfill the hopes of mankind which are entertained by all persons who believe in what the arts can do to develop human personality – a mission laid down on the shoulders of people interested enough to develop children.

Among others, the school aims to promote the arts as avenues for aesthetic development and cultural enhancement and develop the potentials of elementary school children with artistic talents.

With just six years since its inception on 1998, Mandaue City School for the Arts consistently excelled in the Division Achievement Test of the Department of Education for Mandaue City and reaped honors in the field of music and arts. On 2001, the school's entry to the Festival of Asian Children's Art Contest was among the entries the country sent to Japan for final screening. All these the school achieved with its meager resources derived from public and private sources.

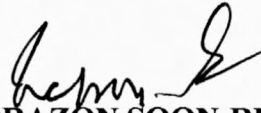
At present, the condition of the school is far from ideal. With more than fifty students, it has only six consultants specializing in piano, violin, folk dance, theater and

visual arts and only five full-time teachers who juggle between academic and non-academic subjects aside from administrative functions.

The sad plight of the school is deplorable and it can be blamed on government neglect. An institution whose objective is to promote the arts cannot just be left at the mercy of well meaning civic groups and individuals and be fed by measly crumbs from public coffers. It deserves support. Its facilities need to be improved and capacity enhanced to enable it to reach out to a greater number of children all over the region who have the potential in the field of music and the arts but are financially constrained to seek proper training and education.

This bill envisions a better-manned and equipped school for the arts that will establish a region-wide training pool of elementary school children in the field of music and arts and provide a continuing source of artists who will work for the preservation and enrichment of our cultural heritage as a people.

An undertaking of this kind is long overdue owing to the importance of cultural development in our march towards progress as a nation. Hence, the prompt approval of this bill is earnestly sought and recommended.



**NERISSA CORAZON SOON-RUIZ, M.D.**

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**AN ACT CONVERTING THE MANDAUE CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS INTO A REGIONAL SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS TO BE KNOWN AS THE CENTRAL VISAYAS SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to foster the preservation, enrichment and dynamic evolution of the Filipino culture based on the principle of unity in diversity, in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression and to place arts and letters under the patronage of the State.

SECTION 2. *Abolition and Creation.* - The Mandaue City Elementary School for the Arts is hereby abolished. In lieu thereof, a regular government agency is hereby created with the name Central Visayas Elementary School for the Arts (CVESA) hereinafter referred to as Elementary School.

SECTION 3. *Mandate.* - The Elementary School is hereby mandated to implement the prescribed general elementary education program, combined with a special curriculum oriented to the arts and geared to the early recognition and development of highly talented children exceptionally gifted in the arts, thus providing a continuing source of artists of excellence and leaders in the preservation and promotion of the Filipino heritage in the arts.

SECTION 4. *The Advisory Council.* - The Elementary School shall have an Advisory Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, composed of the following:

|                            |                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairman, ex-officio:      | Regional Director, Department of Education, VII                                                                                                |
| Vice-Chairman, ex-officio: | Schools Division Superintendent, Department of Education, Mandaue City                                                                         |
| Members, ex-officio:       | Chairman, Humanities Division<br>University of the Philippines – Cebu College<br>Administrator, Central Visayas Elementary School for the Arts |

Chairmen, Committee on Culture & Arts or similar bodies of the Provincial Boards of the Provinces of Cebu, Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor or their authorized representatives.

Artistic Director, Cultural Center of the Philippines or his authorized representative

A representative from each of the fields of music, dance, theater arts, visual arts and literature to be appointed by the Chairman.

The Council shall meet at least once a month. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the Chairman, the Administrator or by at least three members of the Council. Notices of such meetings shall be delivered by messenger, by telephone or by facsimile at least three days before the meeting.

A quorum of the Council shall consist of the majority of all its members holding office at the time the meeting is called and present thereat.

Each member of the Council shall receive an honorarium in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

**SECTION 6. *Powers and Functions of the Council.*** – To accomplish the mandate of the Elementary School, the Advisory Council shall exercise the following powers:

- (a) Fixing the site of the school;
- (b) Receipt for, and appropriations for the ends specified by law, of such sums as may be provided by law for the support of the Elementary School;
- (c) Approval of contracts entered into by the Administrator in connection with the employment of teachers, lecturers and other employees of the Elementary School, fixing of their compensations and other conditions of employment, with concurrence by the Secretary of Budget and Management; and their removal for cause after due notice and hearing;
- (d) Providing fellowships for faculty members and approval of the grant of scholarships, stipends and other allowances to deserving students;
- (e) Determining and evolving the criteria for the selection and admission of students which shall include, among others, competitive examinations;
- (f) Approval of the issuance of certificates or diplomas to successful candidates for graduation;

- (g) Receipt in trust of legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions, or other transfers of ownership and/or possession of real and personal properties of all kinds and administration of the same for the benefit of the Elementary School or for aid to any of its students. Provided, that no such donations, gifts and the like shall be accepted if the same is inimical to the interests of the Elementary School;
- (h) Approval of the annual work program and budget for endorsement to the Department of Budget and Management;
- (i) Such other tasks as may be assigned to it by the Secretary of Education which are necessary for the efficient and accomplishment for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Authority to Solicit Donations, Grants and the like.* – Upon the recommendation of the Board, the Administrator may, without need of authority, approval or intervention by any government agency of any kind whatsoever, solicit, negotiate with, and receive from any public or private, domestic or foreign sources such legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions or other transfers of ownership and/or possession of real or personal property of all kinds in favor and for the benefit of the Elementary School, subject to ratification by the Secretary of Education; Provided, That the Administrator shall, upon recommendation by the Board and in accordance with pertinent accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations, prescribe the measures necessary for the proper use, maintenance and safekeeping of said donations, grants, endowments contributions or transfers and the compliance of the terms and conditions thereon, if any.

SECTION 8. *The Administrator.* – The leadership of the Elementary School is vested on the Administrator who shall head the faculty and staff. He shall implement the day to day operations of the Elementary School. He shall have the general supervision and responsibility of all its business and financial operations and the maintenance of high academic and artistic standards and enforcement of discipline in the school.

He shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education for a term of three years, upon recommendation of the Advisory Council, without prejudice to renewal, and until a successor shall have been appointed and qualified. He shall be chosen on the basis of his ability to identify, maintain and utilize resources; ability to develop a workable system that will focus on the objectives of this Act.

He shall be entitled to a reasonable compensation and other emoluments to be determined by the Advisory Council.

SECTION 9. *Powers and Functions of the Administrator.* - The Administrator shall exercise the following powers:

- a) Appoint heads of divisions or department;

- b) Fix or revise rates of honoraria or allowances for personnel appointed to basic positions on an additional assignment basis as well as for school projects and activities in accordance with existing laws;
- c) Approve study leaves and fellowships;
- d) Recommend the institution, revision or abolition of the school curriculum, in consultation with the Advisory Council and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Education;
- e) Approve the rules for scholarships and fellowships funded out of donations or grants, in consultation with the Council;
- f) Approve the graduation of pupils;
- g) Approve special budgets for joint academic and training programs and other collaborative undertakings between the Elementary School and external agencies or institutions; and
- h) Act in accordance with Civil Service rules and regulations and policies recommended by the Council.
- i) Exercise such other powers usually pertaining to the office of the principal of any elementary school in the Philippine educational system.

SECTION 10. *The Assistant Administrator.* – The Assistant Administrator shall serve as deputy of the Administrator, performing such functions as the latter may assign, specifically the following:

- a) Coordinate and monitor instruction, research, outreach and other academic activities of the Elementary School;
- b) Head the Pupil Services Division which shall be responsible for pupil affairs and conduct;
- c) Act as secretary of the Advisory Council.

He shall likewise be appointed by the Secretary of Education, upon recommendation by the Council. His term of office and compensation shall be fixed by the Advisory Council.

SECTION 11. *The Faculty.* – Members of the faculty of the Elementary School shall be classified as follows:

- a) Regular – All regular or full-time faculty shall be classified as Career Service Personnel as defined by the Civil Service Law. No faculty member shall be appointed on full-time basis if said faculty member is on the staff of any other educational institution.
- b) Non-Regular – All non-regular, part-time and contractual faculty members shall be classified as Non-career Service Personnel whose employment in the school shall be in accordance with a special contract to undertake a specific job to be accomplished within a specific period which in no case shall exceed one year without prejudice to renewal.

SECTION 12. *Qualifications of Faculty Members*–

- a) General Education Faculty. – Recruitment policy with respect to the selection and appointment of teachers for the General Education subjects, whether on full-time or part-time basis, shall be based on the following minimum qualifications:
  - 1. Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and
  - 2. Passing of the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET).

Provided, that in the absence of applicants who have passed the LET, the Administrator may appoint under a temporary or provisional status and subject to concurrence by the Council, applicants who possess only the Bachelor's degree requirement.

Provided further, that for teacher-applicants who possess both the above qualifications, preference in making appointments shall be in the order of their respective ranks in the LET.

- b) Arts Faculty. – Recruitment policy with respect to the selection and appointment of teachers for the Arts subjects, whether on full-time or part-time basis, shall be based on the following minimum qualifications for teacher-applicants:
  - 1. Bachelor's degree in Music, Arts, Fine Arts or its equivalent, and
  - 2. At least two years of professional or teaching experience in the field of specialization.

Provided, that if due to the exigencies of the service, it is necessary to employ as a teacher a person who does not possess the above minimum qualifications but possess the equivalent professional standing or experience, such person shall similarly be appointed on a provisional status.

SECTION 13. *Faculty Grant Award.* Faculty grants may be awarded to a deserving member or members of the faculty whose selection by the Council shall be based on the following:

- a) Membership in the regular faculty;
- b) Teaching or creative work potential;
- c) Academic credentials; and
- d) Length of service in the Elementary School.

The amount of the grant shall be fixed by the Council, subject to the amount or number of donations or grants received by the Elementary School from outside sources. Provided, that a grant shall be no less than twelve thousand pesos nor more than one hundred thousand pesos per annum.

SECTION 14. *Artist-in-Residence.* Highly qualified and serving faculty members in the Arts Department may be appointed Artists-in-Residence for a designated field by the Advisory Council, upon recommendation by the Arts Department and nomination by the Administrator, for a period of two years. Provided, that no faculty members may be appointed for two consecutive terms. Provided further, that the total number of appointees at a particular time shall not exceed three.

SECTION 15. *Duties.* Artists-in-Residence shall:

- a) At least once a year, share with the Elementary School community their creation and insights into the Arts through some appropriate activity during the period of appointment; and
- b) Submit a periodic report on the progress of their work to the Administrator.

SECTION 16. *Privileges.* Artists-in-Residence shall enjoy the following privileges:

- a) Reduced teaching load;
- b) An honorarium to be determined by the Council which in no case shall be less than twenty thousand pesos per annum;
- c) Full or partial study fellowships which may be created on the basis of the needs of the school, which shall include matriculation fees, stipend and other reasonable allowances.

SECTION 17. *The Admissions Committee.* - An Admissions Committee shall be constituted every school year to formulate and administer qualifying examinations,

auditions and other admission requirements subject to approval by the Council. The Admissions Committee shall be composed of the following:

- Chairman: Administrator, CVESA  
Members : Two faculty members each for academics and the arts  
A representative from the Special Education Department,  
Department of Education, Region VII  
A representative from the private sector actively involved  
in the development and promotion of Filipino arts  
and culture.

SECTION 18. *Pupil Admission.* - No pupil shall be denied admission by reason of sex, religious belief, and ethnic or political affiliation. The applicant must:

- a) Be elementary school children;
- b) Be Filipino citizens;
- c) Pass a thorough health examination by an authorized government physician;
- d) Obtain a general average in the qualifying examination of 85 or its equivalent;  
and
- e) Pass the auditions and other admission requirements that the Admissions Committee may require.

SECTION 19. *Attachment.* - The Elementary School is hereby attached to the Department of Education, in consultation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, for policy and program implementation with special emphasis on subjects pertaining to the arts.

SECTION 20. *Arts Elementary School Fund.* - All legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions and other similar transfers of real or personal property of all kinds received by the Elementary School shall constitute the Arts Elementary School Fund, which shall be expended by or with the authority from the Administrator, upon the recommendation of the Advisory Council, to attain the purposes of this Act, in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations. Signatories to this Fund shall be the Director and the officer of the Elementary School responsible for its finances. The Administrator shall submit regular reports on the status of the Fund to the Advisory Council.

SECTION 21. *Transfer of Assets and Liabilities.* - All personnel, records, assets and liabilities of the Mandaue City Elementary School for the Arts are hereby transferred to and absorbed by the Central Visayas Elementary School for the Arts.

SECTION 22. *Notice or Consent Requirement.* - If any reorganizational change authorized in this Act is of such substance or materiality as to prejudice third persons

with rights recognized by law or contract such that notice to or consent of creditors is required, such notice or consent requirement shall be complied with prior to the implementation of such reorganizational change.

SECTION 23. *Appropriations.* The Secretary of Education shall include in its program the sum of twenty-five million pesos (P25,000,000.00) for the year following the passage of this act and thereafter for the construction of additional classrooms and other support facilities and for the purchase of books, academic and musical instruments and equipment and the employment of necessary personnel complement in accordance with existing policies, rules and regulations of the Department of Education.

SECTION 24. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Philippine High School for the Arts and the present officials of the Mandaue City Elementary School for the Arts, shall prescribe such rules and regulations for the efficient implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 25. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.