

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1990

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE DR. REY B. AQUINO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, the private schools arguably have a higher quality of education than those of the public schools.

One of the reasons for this is that, in private schools, there exists an accreditation system whereby private service organizations recognized by the Department of Education (like the Private Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities or "PAASCU") identify and determine whether or not private schools attain educational standards above the minimum prescribed by the government.

This bill seeks to elevate the quality of education in the Philippines, particularly in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, by establishing a system of public school accreditation, in order to empower all public elementary and secondary schools to strive for excellence though recognition and enlightened self-evaluation based on agreed standards of excellence.

Towards this end, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCREDITATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR ALL THE NATION'S PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SECTION. 1. ***Title.***- This Act shall be known as "The Public School Accreditation Act of 2004."

SECTION 2. ***Declaration of Policies.*** - Pursuant to Article XIV Section 1 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such accessible to all. In addition to this, Section 17 in the Declaration of Principles and State Policies provides: "The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development". Further, Article XIV Section 5 (1) provides: "The State shall take into account regional and sectoral needs and conditions and shall encourage local planning in the development of educational policies and programs". Consonant with these constitution principles the following are the declared policies of this Act:

(1) To awaken and unify the efforts of public elementary and secondary schools to elevate the standards of education in the Philippines.

(2) To promote and aid public elementary and secondary schools which have the potential and interest to better themselves through continuing evaluation.

(3) To identify educational institutions which meet or exceed set criteria of educational quality.

SEC. 3. ***Establishment of Accreditation System.*** -. Pursuant to the policies stated in Sec. 2, there shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd) as the lead agency, a system of public school accreditation for all the nation's public elementary and secondary schools.

SEC. 4. ***Creation and Composition.*** -. To formulate and ensure the effective implementation of his Act, there is hereby created a council to be known as the Public School Accreditation Council (PSAC). The council shall be headed by the Secretary of the Department of Education as the Overall Chair. In the provincial, city and municipal levels, the PSAC shall be headed by the Provincial or District Supervisor of the Department of Education as the Local Chair, and the members of the Local School Boards as members.

SEC. 5. ***Powers and Functions.*** -. The PSAC shall have the following powers and functions:

(1) To evaluate the different components of public elementary and secondary schools, particularly in the following areas:

(a) For Elementary Schools:

i. Faculty
ii. Instruction
iii. Physical Plant
iv. Student Services
v. Administration
vi. Student Activity Program

(b) For High Schools:

i. School Community Involvement
ii. Faculty
iii. Instruction
iv. Laboratories
v. Physical Plant
vi. Student Services
vii. Administration

(2) To provide performance standards for pupils, teachers and administrators; and

(3) To conduct periodic assessment of the public school units within their area to ensure that the criteria of educational quality are met.

SEC. 6. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** -. The Secretary of Education, within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act, in consultation and coordination with the members of the Local School Boards in the provincial, city and municipal levels.

SEC. 7. ***Appropriation.*** -. Pursuant to Section 99 (b) of the Local Government Code, the amount authorized to carry out the provisions of this act shall be appropriated from the Special Education Fund of the province, city or municipality where the public elementary school or secondary school is situated.

SEC. 8. ***Separability Clause.*** -. If any portion or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. ***Repealing Clause.*** -. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 10. ***Effectivity.*** -. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED _____.