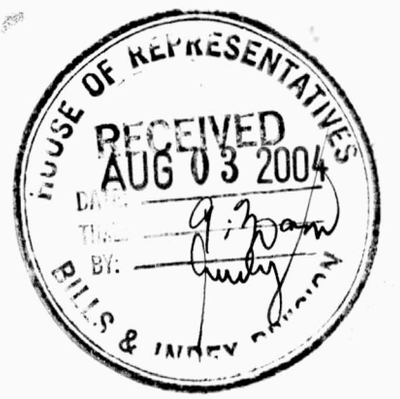
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Diliman, Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1999



Introduced by Honorable MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This refiled bill seeks to provide free public Kindergarten Education for children throughout the country.

Kindergarten education, per policy of the Department of Education, should normally come during the intervening years between 4 ½ to 6 years of age, after which the child is supposed to enroll in Grade 1 for his formal education. As a preparatory stage, it has proven to be an effective foundation to develop the academic interest of the child. Child educators agree that starting education at pre-school age has substantial benefits to the learner and society. By contributing to better academic performance, pre-schooling helps reduce the number of repeaters.

Unfortunately, not all children can avail of a preparatory education because of exhorbitant fees being charged by private institutions offering such education. Children from poor families are usually left behind and have to wait until they reach the right age to be admitted to grade school. Clearly, this is detrimental to the development of many children, who, perhaps gifted but having been born of poor parents, cannot get the adequate education they deserve.

The provision of the Constitution mandates the State and local governments to protect and promote the right of citizens to quality education and to take appropriate steps to make such education available to all. Kindergarten education is the first step and public instrument in awakening a child educand to the socio-political, economic, and cultural realities. It is a most important weapon in instilling the child's moral and spiritual values to guide him during his formative years.

This bill, if acted into law, will give opportunity to children from poor families an opportunity to avail of an early education especially for those in the rural areas where pre-schooling is not yet widespread.

In view thereof, the approval of this bill is highly sought.

MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1999

Introduced by Hon. MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN

AN ACT
ESTABLISHSINHG AND PROVIDING FOR A FREE PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Free Public Kindergarten Education Act of 2004"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is a policy of the State to protect and promote the right of the citizens to quality education and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

SECTION 3. Definitions . – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a. Free Public Kindergarten Education - Is the curricular course offering given to all pupils of kindergarten age in all schools established, administered, maintained and funded by the national and local government units and those established by law and that such pupils shall be free from payment of tuition and other school fees;

b. Department - The Department of Education (Dep-ed);

c. Tuition fee – Fee representing direct costs of instructions, training and other related activities and for the pupils' use of the instruction and training facilities;

d. Other School Fees - Fees which cover other necessary costs supportive of instruction, including but not limited to medical and dental, athletics, library and laboratory fees.

SECTION 4. Implementation of Free Public Kindergarten Education.- The system of free public kindergarten education provided under this Act shall commence in School year 2005-2006 which shall be offered in public elementary schools and institutions established by the government;

SECTION 5. Formulation of Kindergarten Education Curriculum. – The Department of Education shall formulate a national kindergarten curriculum of standard quality and effectiveness and which shall be accessible to all implementing public agencies of education.

SECTION 6. Applicability of Other Laws. – Republic Act No. 5546 which prohibits the collection of contribution from school children in the public, primary, intermediate and high schools, shall be applicable to public kindergarten schools.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary of Education, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. Funding. – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Education, under the Current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. – Repealing Clause. – All laws or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.