

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 2132

Introduced by Rep. Ferjenel G. Biron, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

In recognition of this urgency, the education of the gifted 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, all the aforecited documents do not explicitly cite any specific and comprehensive provisions on the identification and nurturance of the Filipino Gifted Child in Science and Technology. Likewise, no mention on specific provisions for the optimum development of the gifted to become a skillful and purposive person able to plan and manage his own life and attain his highest potential in society.

Universal estimate points out that 3% of the population constitute giftedness. In a population of 11.5 million elementary school children, there should be 345,000 identified gifted children. Enrollment data reveals that only 44,868 or 13% gifted/fast learners have been identified and are being served in special education 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 specially the underserved. The creation of an Act Providing Developmental Opportunities for Filipino Children Gifted in S and T Establishing a National Program for Such Purpose and For Other Purposes will pave the way for such identification and nurturance and eventually provision of quality services appropriate for their educational needs in order to become globally competitive. Hence, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


FERJENEL G. BIRON, M.D.
Representative - Fourth District of Iloilo

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO GIFTED
CHILDREN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known as the "Gifted Children Act of 2004".

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); inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency (Article XIV, Sec. 3(2) the 1987 Constitution); and provide for incentives, including tax deductions, to encourage private participation in programs of basic and applied scientific research; Scholarships, grants-in-aid, or other forms of incentives shall be provided to deserving science students, researchers, scientists, inventors, technologists, and specially gifted citizens.

SEC. 3. OBJECTIVES. In consonance with the foregoing policies, the State shall pursue the following objectives:

I. GENERAL OBJECTIVE:

To establish a national program for the Filipino gifted children in the arts and humanities and the sciences.

II. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- a. To establish a Center to implement the national program for the gifted children;
- b. Identify the gifted children from ages 3 to 16;

- c. Provide developmental opportunities, scholarship grants and other forms of assistance to Filipino gifted children;
- d. Provide special training programs for teachers, guidance counselors, school administrators, other personnel and concerned parents;
- e. Provide logistical and infrastructure support that will effectively supplement the curricular programs for the Filipino gifted children;
- f. Establish and maintain linkages with national, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions and counterpart agencies involved in or relevant to programs for Filipino gifted children;

SEC. 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS. For purposes of this Act, the following shall be defined as follows:

1. Gifted children are those whose ages range from three (3) to sixteen (16) years old who show advanced development and potential for at least above average intellectual ability or talent in any of the following areas:

a. Verbal/Linguistic Intelligence is the ability to use with clarity the core operations of language. Poets, authors, reporters, public speakers, solicitors and talk show hosts may exhibit linguistic intelligence;

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

c. Body/Kinesthetic Intelligence is the control of one's body motions and the ability to handle objects. Actors, dancers, athletes, acrobats may possess body/kinesthetic intelligence;

d. Visual/Spatial Intelligence is the ability to perceive space accurately, mental imagery 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 and by those who enjoy, understand and appreciate music;

f. Leadership Ability refers to at least above average inter-personal relationship skills, capacity to influence others, skills in planning, judgment and problem solving. Highly developed leadership ability is seen among executives, legislators, managers, supervisors, pastoral ministers and teachers.

2. The two (2) areas of giftedness are identified as follows: 1) Children gifted in the arts and humanities; and 2) Children gifted in science and mathematics.

SEC. 5. CENTER FOR THE GIFTED CHILDREN AND SCIENCE ORIENTED YOUTH. The Department of Education (DepEd) in coordination with the

Department of Science and Technology (DOST) shall provide technical and financial support in the establishment of a Center for the Gifted Children.

SEC. 6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. The Center for the Gifted Children shall be headed by an Executive Director who shall perform academic and administrative functions.

The Executive Director shall provide for the Secretariat Services of the Executive Council. He/She shall coordinate the implementation of the policies and guidelines set by the Executive Council.

He/She shall be provided with technical, administrative and other support services for the efficient and effective implementation of his/her functions.

SEC. 7. PROGRAM COMPONENTS. The Center shall implement the following major program components:

A Identification and Placement for the Gifted Children. The Center shall ensure proper assessment and identification of children manifesting giftedness and the appropriate placement suited to the level of the gifted and science oriented children.

B. Scholarship and other Forms of Assistance. The Center shall provide scholarship and other form of assistance for the gifted and science oriented children.

C. Continuing Training for the Teachers and other Personnel. To effectively carry out the program, teachers, guidance counselors, school administrators and other personnel shall be trained/retrained to upgrade their competence in educating the gifted and science oriented children.

D. Training of Parents on Parenting and Nurturing the Gifted Children. Since the home plays a vital role in the development of children, training in parenting, nurturing and counseling the gifted children shall be conducted.

E. Development and/or Procurement of Learning Resource Materials and Assessment Tools. Curriculum, support materials and assessment tools shall be developed.

F. Accreditation. Public and private schools, institutions or agencies providing education programs for the gifted children shall be accredited through established standards and guidelines.

G. Research and Development. The education of the gifted children is a developmental process, hence research and development shall be institutionalized in the program.

H. Linkages and Networking. Internal and external linkages and networking with national, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions and counterpart agencies involved in or relevant to programs for the gifted children shall be established and sustained.

I. Monitoring and Evaluation. Monitoring and evaluation shall be inherent in all program components.

SEC. 8. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. The Executive Council shall be created to ensure the effective coordination and implementation of the program established under this Act.

The Executive Council shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) as Chair, the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as co-Chair, with the following Members:

1. The Executive Director of the Center;
2. The President of the Philippine Science High School Alumni Association; and
3. The President of the Philippine High School for the Arts;
4. One (1) representative from the gifted associations;
5. One (1) of the gifted who is nationally and internationally recognized.

The Executive Council shall exercise the following powers:

1. To formulate policies and guidelines for the administration and operation of the Center;
2. To formulate policies on the staffing, appointment, promotion, retention, removal, renewal, rewards, and incentives for support personnel;
3. To approve the grant of scholarships, stipends and allowances for students;
4. To approve the internal operating budget of the Center in accordance with the provisions of law;
5. To receive grants, donations, contributions, bequests, gifts in cash or in kind and to formulate policies for the administration thereof;
6. To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for by law for the support of the Center to the end specified by law, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the objectives of the Program; and
7. To provide for its own rules of procedure, and to prescribe for the administration of the Center such rules and regulations, not contrary to law as are consistent with the objectives of the Program.

SEC. 9. APPROPRIATION. The amount of One Hundred Twenty Million Pesos (P120M) shall be added to the current annual budget of the Department of Education (DepEd) for the initial implementation of the Program. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its full implementation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR). The DepEd in collaboration with the DOST shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SEC. 11. 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 thereby affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. REPEALING CLAUSE. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. **EFFECTIVITY.** This Act shall take effect on the day following its complete publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,