



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



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2508

Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to standardize the preschool education program in barangay day care centers in the Philippines corollary to the need to strengthen early education in the public school system.

Day care centers were established pursuant to the policy of the State to defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and to provide them with special protection against all forms of abuses, neglect, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development. Filipino children up to six (6) years of age deserve the best care and attention, especially those with working mothers, and those who are victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The stages of preschool education in the country include kindergarten, nursery and preparatory, before the primary grades. The kind of training that the pupils receive in the preschool stage prepares their minds for primary and intermediate education. In the recent State-of-the-Nation Address (SONA) in Congress, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo emphasized that there is a need to start early, a need to maintain the highest educational standards. She asked Congress "to legislate an extra year of studies not by adding a fifth year of high school but by standardizing what is taught in barangay day care centers."

The day care center is a community-based facility which provides temporary care to pre-school children during the daytime. It is designed to take the children away from the hazards of being left alone in their homes as well as on the streets, while providing them with meaningful group experience and activities. It also serves as a learning facility. Activities along cognition coupled with application of good playtime techniques, in preparation for their integration into the formal school, are introduced. All these activities are done under the supervision of a barangay day care worker and a social worker.

In view of the foregoing, approval of the bill is highly recommended.



CATALINO V. FIGUEROA



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AN ACT
STANDARDIZING PRESCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM
PROVIDED IN BARANGAY DAY CARE CENTERS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE THE BARANGAY-LEVEL TOTAL
DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT.

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 6972, otherwise known as "The Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act" by adding a new paragraph to be denominated as paragraph (d-a) to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. *Program Framework.* – The total development and protection of children program for day care centers shall be provided for children up to six (6) years of age with the consent

of parents: Provided, however, That, in case of abused, neglected or exploited children, such consent shall not be required. The program shall include the following:

“ x x x

d) x x x

(D-A) PRESCHOOL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN
FOUR (4) TO SIX (6) YEARS OLD. FOR THIS PURPOSE,
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN
COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, SHALL PREPARE A
STANDARD CURRICULUM FOR PRESCHOOL
PROGRAM IN ALL BARANGAY DAY CARE CENTERS.

x x x .”

SEC. 2. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the municipality or city concerned.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,