

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2633



Introduced by Honorable FAUSTINO "BOJIE" G. DY III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for free public kindergarten education for children throughout the country.

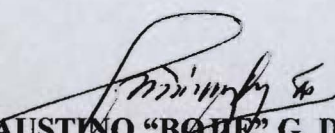
Kindergarten education is classified as a pre-school stage of learning. As a preparatory stage, it has proven to be an effective foundation to develop the academic interest of a child. Child educators agree that starting education at preschool age has substantial benefits to the learner and to society. 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 exorbitant fees being charged by private institutions offering such education. Children from poor families are usually left behind and wait until they reach the right age to be admitted to grade school. Clearly, this is detrimental to the development of many children who maybe gifted but having been born to poor parents cannot get the adequate education they deserve.

Moreover, education is a right never a privilege. Providing quality education is the most important function of the State and local government. Such is required in the performance of our basic public responsibilities. It is a public instrument in awakening a child to the socio-political, economic, and cultural realities. It is the most important weapon in shaping up the child's moral and spiritual values. It is the duty of the State to provide education to all citizens.

The attached bill will give opportunity to children from poor families a chance to avail of an early education especially those in the rural areas where pre-schooling is not yet widespread. This is also in accordance with the provision of the Constitution mandating the State to protect and promote the right of the citizens to qualify education and to take appropriate steps to make education available to all.

This representation filed this bill in the twelve Congress and was deliberated upon in the Committee of Basic Education. In this thirteenth Congress, again, this representation filed this bill in support to the President's objective to focus an extra year of studies not by adding a fifth year of High School but starting educating at pre-school age for a better academic performance not only in grade school but onwards as well. Pre-schooling, strengthens the educational pillar of each students. Overall, it helps reduce the number of repeaters, hence will cut back on education expenditure.

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


FAUSTINO "BOJIE" G. DY III

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2633

Introduced by Honorable Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the 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.

SEC. 3. Definitions. - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) Free Public kindergarten Education - students enrolled in the pre-school course offerings in elementary and pilot schools, specialized schools and in schools established, administered, maintained and funded by local government units including city, provincial, municipal, barangay and those institutions which maybe established by law, shall be free from payment of tuition and other school fees;
- b) Department – the Department of Education, Culture and Sports;
- c) Tuition Fee – fee representing direct costs of instructions, training and other related activities and for the student's 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.

SEC. 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.

SEC. 5. Formulation of a Kindergarten Education Curriculum. – The Department of Education, Culture and Sports shall formulate a kindergarten curriculum in order to upgrade its quality, efficiency and access.

SEC. 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.

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

SEC. 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 maybe necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provisions of this Act shall be repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,