

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. No. 2897



INTRODUCED BY HON. EDMUNDO O. REYES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

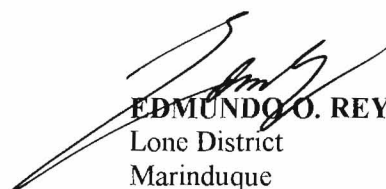
This proposed bill seeks to institutionalize the Bureau of Alternative Learning System, as an adjunct bureau of the Department of Education. Consistent with the austerity measures being implemented by the national government and pursuant to the rationalization program of the same, the bill does not propose to create or establish any additional office as the institutionalization of above-said bureau merely formalizes the renaming and redefinition of the functions of the existing Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE).

Alternative Learning System (ALS) is neither a new concept nor a phenomenon as it was since the primary goal of the Educational For All Program. The ALS institutionalization is consistent with the declared policy of Republic Act 9155, otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001 where the State is mandated, among others, to "promote the right of all citizens to quality basic education and to make such education accessible to all by providing all Filipino children a free compulsory education in the elementary level and free education in the high school level" with central emphasis of including "alternative learning education systems for out-of-school youth and adult learners".

The proposed bill is seen to boost the broad spectrum of education concerns, especially that of making education accessible to all. Apparently, non-formal education (NFE) program under the present system has been regarded of lower priority than formal education. Concretely, the entire education system does not provide for better venues for the development of non-formal education as teacher items, funds for the construction of school buildings and the use of school board funds in relation to the NFE program are given less importance. The advent of ALS offers a new dimension and a paradigm shift for NFE that will ultimately address and satisfy the legal requirements of Republic Act 9155.

ALS is an independent complete learning system as it addresses the various learning styles and needs of learners. A viable learning system, ALS will certainly attract everyone to participate as a system and mode of certification and/or accreditation will be put in place to enhance employability of those who get into it. Under the new system, learners are given full discretion of the kind and method of learning they wish to have, including the use of information technology.

It is earnestly sought that immediate passage of this bill is considered.


EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.
Lone District
Marinduque

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2897

Introduced by Honorable EDMUNDO O. REYES, JR.

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BUREAU OF
ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM (BALS)**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Alternative Learning
2 System Act”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is policy of the State to encourage non-
5 formal, informal and indigenous learning system, as well as self-learning,
6 independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to
7 community needs. The State shall also provide adult citizens, the disabled and out-
8 of-school youth with training in civics, vocational efficiency, and other skills.

9
10 **SEC. 3. Definition.** – For the purpose of this Act, the terms and phrases shall
11 mean as follows:

12
13 a) **Alternative Learning System (ALS)** shall refer to a parallel learning system to
14 provide a viable alternative to the existing formal education. It encompasses both
15 the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills.

16
17 b) **Distance Education** shall refer to any formal or nonformal education process
18 wherein the teaching method is outside the traditional means of education service
19 delivery but instead makes use of other methods of communication such as via
20 mail, video, radio correspondence or other such means of communication.

21
22 c) **Bureau** shall refer to the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS)

1 **SEC. 4. *Renaming of the Bureau.*** - The present Bureau of Nonformal
2 Education (BNFE) under the Department of Education shall now hereby be renamed
3 as the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS).
4

5 **SEC. 5. *Functions of the Bureau of Alternative Learning System.*** - The
6 Bureau shall perform the following functions:
7

- 8 a) Formulate the objectives and basic policies of the alternative learning system;
- 9 b) Formulate, adopt and supplement schemes and systems that will be most
10 effective and productive for ALS;
- 11 c) Formulate guidelines, policies, criteria for accreditation and evaluation of
12 establishments offering ALS;
- 13 d) Formulate policies, guidelines, systems that will effectively administer admission
14 of students, delivery of instruction, and graduation;
- 15 e) Formulate policies, guidelines and systems that will efficiently transfer of students
16 from ALS to formal education and vice-versa;
- 17 f) Administer and supervise the education programs of institutions and schools
18 offering ALS;
- 19 g) Develop curricula for ALS;
- 20 h) Coordinate and monitor the objectives, functions and activities of ALS; and
- 21 i) Administer, supervise, monitor and coordinate all programs and activities under
22 Distance Education
23

24 **SEC. 6. *Institutionalization of Distance Education*** – The administration of
25 all Distance Education programs and projects is hereby transferred to the Bureau of
26 Alternative Learning System.
27

28 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of
29 Education, upon prior consultation with the appropriate government agencies, non-
30 governmental organizations and concerned civil society, shall issue the necessary
31 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within a period of
32 ninety (90) days after its approval.
33

34 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, rules and
35 regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent
36 with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
37

1 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause*.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
2 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation.

4

5 ***Approved,***