



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



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3642

Introduced by Honorable Antonio V. Cuenco

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1 Article XIV of the Constitution directs the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Section 1(5) further mandates the State to provide adult citizens, the disabled and out of school youth training in civics, vocational efficiency and other skills.

Presidential Decree No. 603 was likewise promulgated to protect and promote the rights of the children. It provides that the emotionally disturbed or socially maladjusted child shall be treated with sympathy and understanding and shall be entitled to treatment and competent care; and the physically or mentally handicapped child shall be given the education and care required by his particular condition. Article 74 of the same Decree provides, among others, that "*Where needs warrant, there shall be at least one special school in every province, and, if possible, special schools for the physically handicapped, the mentally retarded, the emotionally disturbed, and the specially gifted.*"

The enactment of Republic Act No. 7277, otherwise known as "The Magna Carta for Disabled Persons," further gave impetus to the provision of quality services to persons with special needs.

In Cebu City, there are two (2) public and three (3) private schools offering classes for children with hearing impairment namely: Zapatera Elementary School, Labangon Elementary School, Sunshine Center, Gualandi Prep Center For The Hearing Impaired and St. Martin de Porres Special School. Special education centers in Visayas and Mindanao are also sprouting in answer to the basic educational needs of these children.

For the past 21 years, the school First High School for the Hearing Impaired has grown from a simple beginning as a trisectoral project of Quota International of Cebu, Department of Education Culture and Sports Regional Office VII and Cebu State College (now Cebu Normal University). Quota provided the financial aspect through "seek and you shall find" principle; Cebu Normal University provided the venue and accreditation of grades; while DECS (now DepEd) provided the administration and supervision. Thereafter, the school became fully government operated with the Department of Education, Cebu City Division and Cebu City Government sharing their resources in operating the school. DepEd Cebu City Division redeployed teachers with regular items from existing schools.

It is my firm belief that equal distribution of educational opportunities should be extended to all including the deaf and other persons with disabilities. More than anybody, the differently abled, particularly the deaf, deserve special attention from the government for the development of their capabilities.

With the approval of this measure, a national special school for the deaf will certainly bolster the morale of these special children. Hopefully this also will enable them become contributing members of society rather than than liabilities for life.

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



ANTONIO V. CUENCO



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AN ACT
CONVERTING THE FIRST HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE HEARING
IMPAIRED IN CEBU CITY, INTO AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU CITY
INTEGRATED NATIONAL SCHOOL FOR THE HEARING
IMPAIRED AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The First High School for the Hearing Impaired in Cebu City is hereby converted into an integrated national high school to be known as the Cebu City Integrated National High School for the Hearing Impaired, hereinafter referred to as the School.

SEC. 2. All personnel, assets, liabilities and records of the First High School for the Hearing Impaired shall be transferred to and absorbed by the School.

SEC. 3. The School shall provide self-contained classes including resource room, dormitory and other ancillary and/or auxiliary services.

SEC. 4. The School shall offer preschool education up to secondary education. The school head, to be designated as Principal II, shall be assisted by an Assistant Principal for Elementary Education and Assistant Principal for High School Education.

SEC. 5. The School administration shall be patterned after the established organization, administration and supervision of Special Education of the Department of Education (SpEd).

SEC. 6. The faculty of the School shall be composed of the SpEd teachers, teacher interpreters, itinerant teachers, resource room facilitators, department heads and a registrar.

SEC. 7. A SpEd School Council is hereby created which shall be principally responsible for the administration and enforcement of the School policies, rules and regulations. It shall be composed of the Principal, Head Teachers, Registrar and Administrative Officer.

SEC. 8. The SpEd School Council shall have the following powers and duties:

a. Prescribe the curricula of the School with the approval by the Department of Education;

b. Set the qualifications of SpEd Teachers, department heads and key personnel of the School and exercise control and supervision over them;



- c. Formulate rules of discipline for students as well as its personnel;
- d. Supervise, direct and coordinate the overall operations of the School.

SEC. 9. The teaching and non-teaching personnel of the School shall receive a salary two grades higher than a public school teacher of equivalent rank and shall enjoy the benefits and other emoluments provided under the Salary Standardization Law.

SEC. 10. The Department of Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the conversion and operation of the school.

SEC. 11. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriation for the Department of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the School shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,

