

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 524

Introduced by HONORABLE LANI M. REVILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 17 states:

“SEC. 17. The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development.”

Further, Article XIV, Section 1 provides:

“SEC. 1. The State shall 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.”

Although the state has established a system of free public education in the high school level, many underprivileged students as well as disabled and out-of-school adults particularly in the far-flung areas are unable to finish their secondary education much less proceed to high school after their elementary education. Their geographic location, physical condition as well as economic circumstances prevent them from accessing quality education.

This bill seeks to establish an open high school system in order to encourage self-learning and to provide an alternative quality educational system to these students through print, television, radio and computer based communications, satellite broadcasting, teleconferencing and other multi-media learning and teaching technologies that allow them to learn on their own at their own pace and time without having to attend conventional classrooms, thus promoting the total liberation of the Filipino youth from the chains of ignorance and physical and geographical conditions.


REP. LANI M. REVILLA
Lone District of Bacoar, Cavite

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Introduced by **HONORABLE LANI M. REVILLA**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING
THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This act shall be known as the “Open High School System Act of 2010.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to broaden access to relevant quality education through the employment of an alternative learning system that would enable the Filipino youth including disabled and out-of-school adults to overcome geographical, economic and physical constraints to enable them to complete their secondary education.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

- a) ***Open High School System*** – is a system of delivering educational services to high school students utilizing print, radio, television and computer-based communications, satellite broadcasting, teleconferencing, and other multi-media learning and teaching technologies that allow students to study on their own without having to regularly attend classes in conventional classrooms.
- b) ***Distance Learning Program*** – is an educational program whereby the teaching and learning processes are accomplished through self-instructional materials that allow independent study, multi-channel learning and school-family-community partnership.
- c) ***Inang Paaralan or Mother High School*** – is a regular secondary school in the regional or division level that functions, among others, as:

- 1) headquarters of the distance learners and teachers;
 - 2) center for enrolment, evaluation, direct or face-to-face instruction and promotion of distance learners;
 - 3) receiver of donations, instructional materials and reports relative to distance learning; and
 - 4) coordinator of the different learning centers in the community.
- d) **Guro** – is a regular school teacher of the “Inang Paaralan” who is in charge of direct instruction, evaluation of student progress and keeping of the records of individual learners.
- e) **Gurong Tagapatnubay** – is a regular secondary teacher of the “Inang Paaralan” who serves as guidance counselor to the distance learners; coordinates with the guro and para guro in evaluating the students’ progress; and prepares and submits reports to the authorities concerned.
- f) **Gurong Kadluan** – is a resource person with specialized skills in practical or industrial subjects such as farming, handicraft, auto-mechanics, tailoring and other skills.
- g) **Para Guro** – is a degree holder or college level citizen/resident in the community who manages a learning center and facilitates process of a group of distance learners.
- h) **Tagapagpayong Pansamahan** – is the adviser of a club in the community who helps learners harmonize study with community service and leisure.

SECTION 4. Institutionalization of the Open High School System. – To carry out the above-declared policy, the Open High School hereinafter referred to as the System is hereby institutionalized in the Philippines in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

SECTION 5. Coverage. – This Act shall apply to public secondary educational institutions with existing distance learning programs and all other such institutions that shall later be authorized as qualified implementers of the System.

All existing programs and projects of the Bureau of Secondary Education regarding dropout intervention and poverty alleviation through education shall be part of the Open High School System.

SECTION 6. Clientele of the System. – The System shall be open to all youth and adults who have finished elementary education and high school qualifiers of the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT).

SECTION 7. *Administration and Supervision.* – The Department of Education, Culture and Sports in coordination with the University of the Philippines, which presently provides an Open Educational System, shall administer and supervise the Open High School System. It shall perform the following functions:

- a) Formulate the objectives and basic policies of the System;
- b) Formulate, adopt and supplement programs that will make the System effective and productive;
- c) Monitor and evaluate existing distance learning programs for integration with the System;
- d) Develop and validate prototype instructional distance learning materials;
- e) Consult and collaborate with the DepEd and its divisions, local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and other private agencies for the effective operation of the System;
- f) Promulgate the necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the System;
- g) Recommend to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports the annual budget of the System for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act for the year; and
- h) Perform such other tasks as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the System.

SECTION 8. *Establishment of Distance Learning Centers.* – Distance learning centers shall be established in the Inang Paaralan or in the community. The Center is a room of building where the distance learners can conduct researches or gather additional information on topics under study. It can also serve as a venue where the Gurong Kadluan can conduct hands-on exercises/activities.

SECTION 9. *Collaboration between the University of the Philippines (UP) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).* – The DECS, the UP and the DILG shall sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defining the role of the local government units in the operation of the System in order to ensure maximum collaboration between the DECS, UP and local government units towards the success of the System.

SECTION 10. *Role of Government Broadcast Stations and Telecommunication Networks.* – Government broadcast stations and telecommunications networks shall provide the necessary assistance and support to the System; *Provided, That*, private stations and networks shall also be encouraged to provide the same.

SECTION 11. Role of Parents. – Parents of distance learners shall be provided with adequate information on the System as well as for sharing experiences to enable them to competently assist their children in their distance learning.

SECTION 12. Personnel Recruitment and Incentives. – All personnel involved in the System shall have adequate and appropriate education and training to be determined by the DECS and UP.

Teacher or Guro's and Gurong Tagapatnubay shall receive incentives and/or monetary compensation as determined by the DECS and UP while Para Guro, Gurong Kadluan and TagapayongPansamahan shall receive honoraria, to be arranged with the local school board.

It shall be the duty of the local government units concerned to employ the Para Guro, Gurong Kadluan and Tagapayong Pansamahan in accordance with the guidelines on hiring such personnel prepared upon prior consultation with the DECS and UP and issued by the same LGUs.

SECTION 13. Curriculum Content. – The System shall devise its curriculum after consultation with the Curriculum Development Division, Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE), devise a rating system, instructional strategies and materials that will suit the psycho-social needs and physical condition of conduct disordered and antisocial learners who are detained in correctional institutions. In the discharge of these functions, the BSE shall consult with professional psychiatrists, psychologist, social workers and other related experts who manage or deal with youth offenders who are undergoing rehabilitation.

SECTION 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Education, Culture and Sports and the University of the Philippines, through the Curriculum Development Division of Secondary Education, upon prior consultation with the Committees on Education of the Senate and the House of Representatives, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within a period of ninety (90) days after its approval.

SECTION 15. Appropriations. – To carry out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby appropriated the sum of Thirty Million Pesos (P30,000,000.00) from the General Appropriations Act for the current year. Thereafter, the appropriation for such funds as may be necessary for the purpose shall be provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 16. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held to be unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the remainder thereof.

SECTION 17. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 18. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,