

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 630

Introduced by HONORABLE JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This 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 the above-said buerau 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 since it is the primary goal of the Education 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 system for out-of-school youth and adult learners."

The proposed measures is expected 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 pardigm shift for the NFE that will ultimately address and satisfy the legal requirement of Republic Act 9155.

For this, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

H. B. No. 630

Introduced by Honorable JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

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:

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Alternative Learning System Act."

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

SEC. 3. Definition. - For the purpose of this Act, the terms and phrases shall mean as follows:

- a) Alternative Learning System (ALS) shall refer to a parallel learning system to provide a viable alternative to the existing formal education. It encompasses both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills.
- b) Distance Education shall refer to any formal or non-formal education process wherein the teaching method is outside the traditional means of education service delivery but instead makes use of other methods of communication such as via mail, video, radio correspondence or other such means of communication.
- c) Bureau shall refer to the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALs)

SEC.4. Renaming of the Bureau. - The present Bureau of Non-formal Education (BNFE) under the Department of Education shall now hereby be renamed as the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALs).

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

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

SEC. 6. Institutionalization of Distance Education - The administration of all Distance Education programs and projects is hereby transferred to the Bureau of Alternative Learning System.

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

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

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

Approved,