

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1245

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MARK A. VILLAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the competitive advantages of the Philippines as an investment destination is our English speaking workforce. Similarly, Filipino workers are generally preferred over other nationalities for overseas work because of their ability to converse and understand English. The developing countries in Asia as well as other non-English speaking countries in the world are now exerting great efforts in teaching their people to learn the English language to become more competitive.

Unfortunately, this competitive edge has diminished over the years and the learning of the English language suffered a setback due largely to the Bilingual Policy of the Department of Education introduced in 1974 through DECS Order No. 25 series of 1974. While the policy was commendable, the same has limited the exposure of the learner to both English and Filipino, thus greatly affecting the non-tagalog speaker.

Further, the books in almost all the disciplines, especially in mathematics and science, are written in English. Because of the non-mastery of the language, we have been left behind in terms of knowledge and skills in science, mathematics and technology, especially among our Asian neighbors, and has jeopardized the global competitiveness of our young people.

The bill proposes that we regain the mastery of the English language and improve the total learning process in our schools, especially in our public schools, to ensure better education for the Filipino students and enhance their competitiveness in the global arena.

Thus, I recommend the immediate approval of this measure.



MARK A. VILLAR
Representative
Lone District of Las Piñas City

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1245

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MARK A. VILLAR**

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND ENHANCE THE USE OF ENGLISH AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN PHILIPPINE SCHOOLS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This act shall be known as "Strengthening and Enhancing the Use of English as the Medium of Instruction Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to provide the citizenry with the opportunities to have quality education, to learn, communicate, grow and change in the pursuit of a higher standard of life. Towards this end, the government undertakes to align the education of the young aligned with the requirements and realities of business life and competitive in the global environment by strengthening, enhancing and developing the use of the English language as a medium of instruction in all levels of education, from pre-school to the tertiary level.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For the purpose of this Act, the following terms or acronyms shall refer to and/or mean as hereunder defined:

(a) *Medium of Instruction (MOI)* refers to the language or dialect used in teaching;

(b) *School Year (SY)* refers to part of the year during which school is in session typically from June to March;

(c) *Parents, Teachers and Community Association (PTCA)* refers to a group of parents and teachers organized for the welfare of a school and students;

(d) *Regional or Native Language* refers to the regional language or any dialect prevailing in a region or place; and

(e) *Academic Subjects* refers to curricular subjects in the area of general education, science and technology.

SEC. 4. *Medium of Instruction.* - The MOI in all subjects taught shall be as follows:

(a) English, Filipino or the regional/native language may be used as the MOI in all subjects from pre-school until Grade III.

(b) English and Filipino shall be taught as separate subjects in all levels in elementary and secondary levels.

(c) In all academic subjects in the elementary grades from Grade IV to Grade VI and in all levels in the secondary, the MOI shall be English.

(d) In the tertiary level, the current language policy as prescribed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be maintained.

(e) In addition to formal instruction, the use of English shall be encouraged as a language of interaction in the school. Corollary to this, the organization of English clubs, such as book, oratorical, debating, writing and related associations shall be encouraged. In school publications, the use of English shall be given priority, as far as practicable.

SEC. 5. *Government Examinations and Entrance Examinations.* - Government examinations and entrance examinations to public schools and state colleges and universities at all levels shall use English as the language of assessment; *Provided, however,* it may include questions in Filipino for which the credit for such questions shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total points in the examination.

SEC. 6. *Support Facilities.* - All the requirements, devices and support facilities necessary to strengthen, enhance and develop English as the MOI such as training and orientation for teachers, teachers' manuals, learning modules and workbooks, textbooks, audiovisual aids and other auxiliary teaching and learning materials shall be formulated, developed, and provided by the Department of Education (DepEd).

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Education, in consultation with CHED, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and other concerned government agencies shall promulgate within sixty (60) days the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) that shall be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Congressional Oversight Committee.* - There is hereby created a Congressional Oversight Committee composed of three (3) Members from the Senate and three (3) Members from the House of Representatives. The Members from the Senate shall be appointed by the Senate President based on the proportional representation of the parties or the coalitions therein with at least one (1) Senator representing the Minority. The Members of the House of Representatives shall be appointed by the Speaker, also based on proportional representation of the parties or coalitions therein with at least one (1) Member representing the Minority.

The Committee shall be headed by the respective Chairpersons of the Senate and the House of Representatives' Committees on Education.

The Congressional Oversight Committee on Education shall, in aid of legislation, perform the following tasks:

- a) Participate in the crafting of the IRR;
- b) Approve the final draft of the IRR;
- c) Set the guidelines and overall framework to monitor and ensure the proper implementation of this Act;

d) Ensure transparency and require the submission of reports from government agencies concerned on the conduct of programs, projects and policies relating to the implementation of this Act;

e) Determine inherent weaknesses in the law and recommend the necessary remedial legislation or executive measures; and

f) Perform such other duties and functions and responsibilities as may be necessary to effectively attain the objectives of this Act.

The Congressional Oversight Committee on Education shall be assisted by the secretariat of the committees of both the House of Representatives and the Senate and shall be assisted by personnel whomay be seconded therefrom. It may likewise retain the services of consultants.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* - 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,