

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1604

Introduced by Honorable Danilo Ramon S. Fernandez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

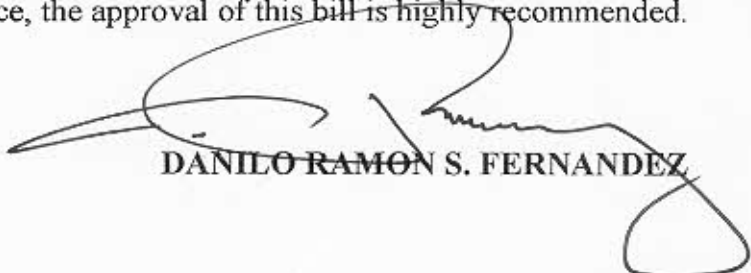
This bill seeks to establish a Center for Filipino Gifted and Talented Children.

The gifted and talented children are the most important human resource of a nation. The need to address the development of their potential should be given due consideration. Unfortunately, our country's school system has not offered full programs and services that cater to such needs. Though many Filipino children demonstrate an above average general intellectual and potential ability in the fields of arts, music, humanities, science and mathematics, their mental capabilities remain untapped.

While it is true that there are schools that have been established to cater to the needs of gifted and talented children, only a handful is given the chance to try their luck in those institutions. These schools thoroughly filter prospective students by way of examinations leaving behind other gifted and talented children without special education that befit them.

With this bill, gifted and talented children will be given the right amount of care and attention. For those who cannot afford to go to reputable schools, they can avail of scholarships and grant-in-aids that will nurture and develop their intellectual potential and abilities. Special training programs will also be given to teachers, guidance counsellors and school administrators to assist them in meeting the special needs of these gifted and talented students. Lastly, the proposed center under this bill will make advanced education within reach even to the neediest of families.

Hence, the approval of this bill is highly recommended.



DANILO RAMON S. FERNANDEZ

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CENTER FOR FILIPINO GIFTED AND
TALENTED CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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 the
“*Gifted and Talented Children Act.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It shall be the policy of the State to recognize and discharge its responsibilities to strengthen and actively promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. In pursuance thereto, the State shall:

- (a) Encourage the personal development of gifted and talented children by providing scholarships, grants-in-aid, or other forms of incentives to deserving arts, music and science students, researchers, scientists, inventors and technologists;

- (b) Establish a Center to implement the national program for the gifted and talented children;
- (c) Identify the gifted and talented children from ages 3 to 16;
- (d) Provide special training programs for teachers, guidance counsellors, school administrators, other personnel and parents;
- (e) Provide logistical and infrastructure support that will effectively supplement the curricular programs for the Filipino gifted and talented children; and
- (f) Establish and maintain linkages with national, international, governmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions and counterpart agencies involved in or relevant to programs for Filipino gifted and talented children.

SEC. 3. *Center for the Gifted and Talented Children.* – There shall be established, under the supervision of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines (UP), a Center for the gifted and talented children, hereinafter referred to as the “*Center.*” The Center shall perform its functions in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd).

For purposes of this Act, “*gifted and talented children*” refer to children from three (3) to sixteen (16) years old who show advanced development and potential or at least above average intellectual ability or talent in any of the following areas:

- a. *Verbal or Linguistic Intelligence* refers to the ability to use with clarity the core operations of language. Poets, authors, reporters, public speakers, solicitors and talk show hosts may exhibit verbal or linguistic intelligence;
- b. *Logical or Mathematical Intelligence* refers to the skillful ability to reason, recognize significant problems and solve them, explore abstract systems and explain physical reality. Scientists, mathematicians, researchers, physicists and engineers may demonstrate logical and mathematical intelligence;
- c. *Body or Kinesthetic Intelligence* refers to the control of one's body motions and the ability to handle objects. Actors, dancers, athletes and acrobats may possess body or kinesthetic intelligence;
- d. *Visual or Spatial Intelligence* refers to the ability to perceive space accurately, mental imagery and transform it to produce graphic likeness of the spatial information. Painters, sculptors, cartographers, surgeons, architects, navigators have highly developed spatial intelligence; and
- e. *Musical or Rhythmic Intelligence* refers to the ability to use the set of musical elements: pitch, rhythm and timbre and the qualities of a tone. Musical intelligence maybe demonstrated by singers, composers, instrumentalists, conductors and by those who enjoy, understand and appreciate music.

Gifted and talented children likewise include science-oriented youth or those who have demonstrated above average performance in science and mathematics.

SEC. 4. *Executive Council.* – The Executive Council is hereby created to ensure the effective coordination and implementation of the programs established under this Act which shall be composed of the following:

- a) President of the UP System, as Chairman;
- b) Secretaries of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and of the DepEd, as vice-Chairmen;
- c) Executive Director of the Center;
- d) National Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts;
- e) Executive Director of the Philippine Science High School System;
- f) Director of the Philippine Science High School for the Arts; and
- g) Two (2) private sector representatives from industries and institutions involved in providing programs for gifted and talented children appointed by the UP Board of Regents, as members.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Duties.* – The Executive Council shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- a) Formulate policies and guidelines for the administration and operation of the Center;

- b) Formulate policies on the staffing, appointment, promotion, retention, removal, renewal, rewards, and incentives for support personnel;
- c) Approve the grant of scholarships, stipends and allowances for students;
- d) Approve the internal operating budget of the Center in accordance with the provisions of law;
- e) Receive grants, donations, contributions, bequests, gifts in cash or in kind and to formulate policies for the administration thereof;
- f) Receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for by law for the support of the Center to the end specified by law, and all other sums in the manner it may, in its discretion, determine to carry out the objectives of the Program;
- g) Provide the Executive Director with technical, administrative and other support services for the efficient and effective implementation of the functions; and
- h) Provide for its own rules of procedure, and to prescribe for the administration of the Center such rules and regulations, not contrary to law as are consistent with the objectives of the Program.

SEC. 6. *Executive Director.* – The Center for the Gifted and Talented Children shall be headed by an Executive Director and such other personnel as maybe determined by the UP Board of Regents.

The Executive Director shall provide for the Secretariat Services of the Executive Council and shall coordinate the implementation of the policies and guidelines set by the Executive Council.

SEC. 7. *Incentives for Donations.* – Donations to the Center shall be deposited in a trust fund to be used in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Gifts or bequests in the form of cash, land, building, or improvements thereon from private entities or individuals in support of programs for gifted and talented children and science-oriented youth, as certified by the Center, shall be exempt from the donor's tax: *Provided, however,* That not more than thirty percent (30%) of said gifts shall be used by the Center for administration purpose. Said tax exemption shall be granted in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the University of the Philippines. Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the operation and maintenance of the school shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *National Celebration of Giftedness.* – In recognition of the efforts and contributions of the gifted and talented children, the President of the Philippines may declare one week each year as National Giftedness Week.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines shall, in collaboration with DOST and DepEd, issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,