

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2468

Submitted by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations on 20 NOV 2012

Re : House Bill No. **6694**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6197

Sponsors : Representatives Ocampo, Limkaichong, Almario, and Piamonte

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No. 6197 introduced by Reps. Escudero, Angara, Ocampo, Almario and Yap (S), entitled:

**"AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE EARLY YEARS FROM ZERO (0) TO AGE FOUR (4)
AS THE FIRST CRUCIAL STAGE OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL, AND RENAMING THE DAY CARE CENTER AS CHILD
DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No.
entitled:

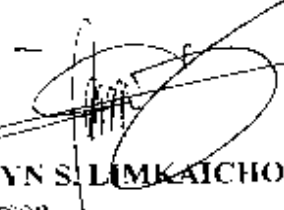
6694

**"AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE AGE FROM ZERO (0) TO EIGHT (8) YEARS AS THE
FIRST CRUCIAL STAGE OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT
SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES"**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 6197 with Reps. Escudero, Angara, Ocampo, Almario, Yap (S), Piamonte, Castro (J), Cojuangco (K), Sy-Alvarado, Dalog, Asilo, Gonzalez

(F). Flores, Pancho, Ilagan, Lagdameo, Gunigundo, Banal, Sarmiento (M), Villarica, Garin (S), Laeson-Noel, Guanlao, Rodriguez (R), Ramos Jr., Torres-Gomez, Arquiza and Limkaichong as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



JOCELYN S. LIMKAICHONG
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations



ROSENDA ANN OCAMPO
Chairperson
Committee on Basic Education and Culture

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6694
(In substitution of House Bill No. 6197)

Introduced by Representatives Salvador H. Escudero III, Juan Edgardo M. Angara, Rosenda Ann Ocampo, Thelma Z. Almario, Mariano U. Piamonte, Jr., Jane T. Castro, Kimi S. Cojuangco, Ma. Victoria R. Sy-Alvarado, Maximo B. Dalog, Benjamin DR Asilo Fernando V Gonzalez, Florencio T. Flores, Jr., Pedro M. Pancho, Luzviminda C. Ilagan, Monique Yazmin Q. Lagdameo, Magtanggol T. Gunigundo I, Susan A. Yap, Jorge John B. Banal, Jr., Mel Senen S. Sarmiento, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Sharon S. Garin, Josephine Veronique R. Lacson-Noel, Agapito H. Guanlao, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Deogracias B. Ramos, Jr., Lucy Marie Torres-Gomez, Godofredo V. Arquiza and Jocelyn S. Limkaichong

AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE AGE FROM ZERO (0) TO EIGHT (8) YEARS AS THE FIRST CRUCIAL STAGE OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION. 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Early Years Act
2 (EYA) of 2012".
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State
5 to promote the rights of children to survival, development and special protection with
6 full recognition of the nature of childhood and as well as the need to provide
7 developmentally appropriate experiences to address their needs; and to support
8 parents in their roles as primary caregivers and as their children's first teachers.
9 Further, the State hereby recognizes the age from zero (0) to eight (8) years as the
10 first crucial stage of educational development of which the age from zero (0) to four
11 (4) years shall be the responsibility of the Early Childhood Care and Development
12 (ECCD) Council. Therefore, the responsibility to help develop children in the
13 formative years between age five (5) to eight (8) years shall be with the Department
14 of Education (DepEd).
15

1 The State shall institutionalize a National System for Early Childhood Care
2 and Development (ECCD) that is comprehensive, integrative and sustainable, that
3 involves multi-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration at the national and local levels
4 among government, among service providers, families and communities, and among
5 the public and private sectors, nongovernment organizations, professional
6 associations, and academic institutions.

7
8 This System shall promote the inclusion of children with special needs,
9 provide for reasonable accommodation and accessible environments for children
10 with disabilities and advocate respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, including
11 the use of Filipino Sign Language as the visual language of the deaf community. It
12 shall be anchored on complementary strategies for ECCD that include service
13 delivery for children from age zero (0) to four (4) years, educating parents and
14 caregivers, encouraging the active involvement of parents and communities in ECCD
15 programs, raising awareness about the important efforts that improve the quality of
16 life for young children and families.

17
18 **SEC. 3. Objectives.** - The National ECCD System shall pursue the following
19 objectives:

- 20
21 a) To achieve improved infant and child survival rates by ensuring that adequate
22 health and nutrition programs are accessible to young children and their
23 parents, from the prenatal period throughout the early childhood years;
24
25 b) To enhance the physical-motor, socio-emotional, cognitive, language,
26 psychological and spiritual development of young children;
27
28 c) To facilitate a smooth transition from care and education provided at home to
29 community or school-based setting and to kindergarten;
30
31 d) To ensure that young children are adequately prepared for the formal learning
32 system that begins at kindergarten;
33
34 e) To establish an efficient system for early identification, prevention, referral and
35 intervention for the wide range of children with special needs from age zero
36 (0) to four (4) years;
37
38 f) To upgrade and update the capabilities of service providers and their
39 supervisors to comply with quality standards for various ECCD programs;
40
41 g) To reinforce the role of parents and other caregivers as the primary caregivers
42 and educators of their children especially from age zero (0) to four (4) years;
43

- h) To enhance and sustain the efforts of communities to promote ECCD programs and ensure that special support is provided for poor, disadvantaged and linguistic minority communities;
- i) To improve the quality standards of public and private ECCD programs through, but not limited to, a registration and credential system for ECCD service providers and facilities.
- j) To ensure that the education of persons, and in particular children, who are blind, deaf, or deafblind, are conducted in the most appropriate languages, modes and means of communication for the individual, and in environments which maximize academic and social development.
- k) To employ teachers, including teachers with disabilities, who are qualified in sign language and/or braille, and to train professionals and staff who work at all levels of education.

SEC. 4. Definitions. – The following terms are defined as follows:

- a) Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) System shall refer to the full range of health, nutrition, early education and social services development programs that provide for the basic holistic needs of young children from age zero (0) to four (4) years; and to promote their optimum growth and development.

These programs shall include:

- 1) Center-based programs, such as the day care service established under Republic Act No. 6972, otherwise known as the “Barangay – Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act”, and hereinafter referred to as the child development service, community or church-based early childhood education programs initiated by nongovernment organizations or people's organizations, workplace-related child care and education programs, child-minding centers, health centers and stations; and
 - 2) Home-based programs, such as the neighborhood-based play groups, family child care programs, parent education and home visiting programs.
- b) ECCD Service Providers shall include the various professionals, paraprofessionals and volunteer caregivers who are directly responsible for the care and education of young children from age zero (0) to four (4) years

through the various centers and home-based programs. They shall include, but shall not be limited to, day care workers hereinafter referred to as child development workers, child development teachers, teacher-aides, rural health midwives, social workers, community health workers, barangay nutrition scholars, parent effectiveness service volunteers, and family day care providers.

- c) ECCD Curriculum shall refer to the developmentally-appropriate educational objectives and practices, programs of activities, organized learning experiences, recommended learning materials and appropriate assessment for children from age zero (0) to four (4) years that are implemented by service providers through center and home-based programs. It shall consist of national program goals and guidelines, instructional objectives, and content outlines that are age-appropriate, individually appropriate and culturally-relevant.
- d) Parent Education shall refer to the various formal and alternative means of providing parents with information, skills, and support systems to assist them in their roles as their children's primary caregivers and educators. These include public and private parent education programs linked to center, home and media-based child care and education programs.

SEC. 5. System Framework and Components. – The ECCD System shall ensure that the National ECCD Program is implemented in accordance with quality standards for accreditation and for this purpose there shall be established a National ECCD Monitoring & Evaluation Framework. The ECCD System shall include the following components:

- a) ECCD Curriculum. – The curriculum shall focus on children's total development and takes into account age, individual and socio-cultural appropriateness. It shall promote the delivery of complementary and integrative services for health, nutrition, early childhood education, sanitation and cultural activities. It shall use the child's first language as the medium of instruction;
- b) Parent Education and Involvement, Advocacy and Mobilization of Communities. – This component shall harness and develop parents' strengths as providers of ECCD programs at home, as active partners of other stakeholders, as advocates for community concerns that affect children, and as pillars of support for local and national ECCD programs through community organization efforts;
- c) Human Resource Development Program. – The program shall establish mechanisms for the systematic professionalization of ECCD service providers

1 through enrolment in educational program in site-based or distance education
2 modes, through pre-service or in-service training including continuing
3 education programs, whereby a registration and credential system shall be
4 developed in the ECCD System:
5

- 6 d) **ECCD Management.** – This component shall consist of a continuing process
7 of planning, implementation, supervision, financial management, monitoring,
8 evaluation and reporting to persons concerned and shall encourage the
9 active involvement of and build the capabilities of service providers, parents
10 and local government officials to sustain the program.
11

12 **SEC. 6. Expanding the ECCD System.** – The National ECCD System shall
13 henceforth apply to all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays as may be
14 determined by the ECCD Council to achieve universal ECCD coverage for all
15 children from age zero (0) to four (4) years.
16

17 **SEC. 7. Implementing Arrangements and Operational Structures.** – The
18 implementation of the National ECCD System shall be the responsibility of the ECCD
19 Council.
20

- 21 a) **Responsibilities of the ECCD Council** – The ECCD Council shall be
22 responsible for establishing national standards, developing policies and
23 programs, ensuring compliance thereof, providing technical assistance and
24 support to the ECCD service providers in consultation with coordinating
25 committees at the provincial, city, municipal and barangay levels.
26

27 The Department of Education (DepED), the Department of Social Welfare and
28 Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the National
29 Nutrition Council (NNC) and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
30 (ULAP) shall meet in an annual workshop to prepare work and financial plans
31 that will coordinate their technical assistance and support for the National
32 ECCD program. They shall observed existing implementing guidelines that
33 ensure consistency in integrated service delivery within the National ECCD
34 System, as follows:
35

- 36 1) The DepED shall recognize the National ECCD Program as the
37 foundation of the learning continuum and shall promote it for all
38 children from age zero (0) to four (4) years;
39
40 2) The DepED, DSWD, DOH and NNC shall provide continuing
41 professional development program support, supplementary learning
42 materials, reference materials, supplemental nutrition and health care
43 services.
44

b) Responsibilities of Local Government Units. – Local government units (LGUs) shall include allocations from their Special Education Fund (SEF) and Gender and Development (GAD) Fund in addition to other local funds to be utilized for the following purposes:

- 1) Support the implementation of their ECCD Program;
- 2) Organize and support parent cooperatives to establish community-based ECCD programs;
- 3) Provide counterpart funds for the continuing professional development of their ECCD public service providers; and
- 4) Provide the facilities for the conduct of their ECCD Program.

c) Responsibilities of Families and Communities. - Families and communities shall support the local ECCD programs by participating in various community-based projects such as but not limited to health, nutrition, social development and early childhood education projects for the overall development of their children from age zero (0) to four (4) years;

SEC. 8. Strengthening the ECCD Council. - The ECCD Council shall be strengthened to ensure the State's focus on building a strong foundation for the development and learning of children during the early years from age zero (0) to four (4) years, to support the full range of health, nutrition, early education and social development programs for the child's holistic development and ensure sustained inter-agency and multi-sectoral collaboration. The Council shall be attached to the DepED.

SEC. 9. Organization of the ECCD Council. - The ECCD Council shall be composed of the following:

- a) ECCD Governing Board. - The ECCD Governing Board shall be composed of:
- 1) Secretary of the Department of Education, as *ex-officio* chairperson;
 - 2) Executive Director of the ECCD Council, as vice chairperson;
 - 3) Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, as member;
 - 4) Secretary of the Department of Health, as member;
 - 5) Executive Director of the National Nutrition Council, as member;

6) President of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines as member;
and

7) One (1) private individual who is an ECCD practitioner and expert shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Board as member.

The Board shall meet once a month or upon the call of the chairperson or three (3) members of the Board.

b) **Council Secretariat.** - There shall be established an ECCD Council Secretariat to be headed by an Executive Director. The Secretariat shall provide support services for the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of policies and plans formulated by the Council subject to the Compensation and Position Classification System and other existing civil service rules and regulations.

SEC. 10. Functions of the ECCD Council. - The ECCD Council shall carry out the objectives of the National ECCD System by performing the following functions:

- a) Promulgate policies and implementing guidelines for ECCD programs in consultation with stakeholders, including the regional level when appropriate, consistent with the national policy and program frameworks as defined in this Act;
- b) Establish ECCD program standards that reflect developmentally appropriate practices for ECCD programs, which shall interface with the kindergarten curriculum of the DepEd;
- c) Develop a national system for the recruitment, registration, accreditation, continuing education and equivalency, and credential system of ECCD service providers, supervisors and administrators to improve and professionalize the ECCD sector and upgrade quality standards of public and private ECCD programs;
- d) Develop a national system of awards and recognition to deserving ECCD program implementers and service providers;
- e) Promote, encourage and coordinate the various ECCD programs of the DepEd, the DSWD, the DOH and the NNC, and monitor the delivery of services to the ECCD program beneficiaries nationwide;
- f) Evaluate and assess the impact and outcome of various ECCD programs nationwide through an effective information system;

1 government financial institutions to support the public programs including the
2 urban poor.

3
4 ~~There shall be established a fund for an ECCD Program Contribution Scheme~~
5 with accredited private providers at the community levels.

- 6
7 c) *Fees and Contributions* - Fees and contributions collected for both public and
8 private ECCD programs shall be monitored by the ECCD Council to ensure
9 that these are affordable and within reasonable limits. Families are
10 encouraged to contribute their time and services to support the ECCD
11 programs.

12
13 **Sec. 13. Annual Report.** - The ECCD Council shall, at the close of each
14 calendar year, submit an annual physical and financial reports to Congress, giving
15 a detailed account of its proceedings and accomplishments during the year, making
16 recommendations for the adoption of measures that will improve the National ECCD
17 System and ensuring achievement of universal coverage of ECCD benefits to all
18 children from age zero (0) to four (4) years, within a period of five (5) years.

19
20 **SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Council, in
21 consultation with appropriate government agencies and non-government
22 organizations, shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations within
23 sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.

24
25 **SEC. 15. Repealing Clause.** - Republic Act No. 8980, otherwise known as
26 "An Act Promulgating A Comprehensive Policy And A National System For Early
27 Childhood Care And Development (ECCD). Providing Funds Therefore And For
28 Other Purposes" is hereby repealed.

29
30 All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and
31 regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
32 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

33
34 **SEC. 16. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason, any portion of this Act shall
35 be declared unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected
36 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

37
38 **SEC. 17. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
39 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
40 general circulation.

41
42 *Approved.*