

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 366

Introduced by: **REP. RAUL V. DEL MAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Today, little noticed by educators and educational planners is the need to stress the economic setting of education, the need to have the educational skills and training of the young and the graduates, in these difficult times, in line with the demands of business and industries to be competitive in the business world. One of the realistic ways to do this is to upgrade, to raise to a higher level the English language proficiency of Filipino students and graduates of our educational system.

Indeed, the accepted view is that without English language proficiency, without the "ability to communicate in the world of economic enterprise", it is difficult for a Filipino graduate to get jobs anywhere in this country and anywhere in the world, jobs that their education deserve. English language proficiency is now the name of the game where the Filipinos used to play in superior position. The key to better jobs here or overseas is English, not because it is the language of foreigners but because it is the language of research, science and technology, areas which global business and employment is very much into.

The attached bill, therefore, seeks to provide for the use of English as the medium of instruction in pre-schools, elementary and high schools and to prescribe the teaching in specialized English in tertiary levels of our present educational system. The pre-school and elementary levels are crucial because the language proficiency must start at the childhood stage, the formative years; it would be more difficult to do so in older years.

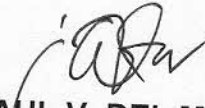
In the tertiary level where English is already the medium of instructions, there must be in place a program of teaching specialized English for specialized education. This simply means that the teaching of English, both in written or oral form, must employ or focus on the language or terminology of business and

industries, on written and oral communications commonly used in the diverse areas of trade and business, having in mind the concentration or specialization of the students, whether a diploma or degree course or a technical or vocational education. The basic objective is to have the graduates equipped with the English proficiency to communicate in simple, clear and descriptive manner things or matters which their "world of work" would normally require.

To carry out what the objectives and to implement the program in a realistic way, the Department of Education for the college levels, jointly with the Commission on Higher Education for the tertiary level and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority for technical education and skills training, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

It may be stressed that this bill passed on third and final reading in the House of Representatives during the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Congress but was not approved by the Senate, for lack of time upon congressional adjournment.

In view of all the foregoing, approval of this Bill is earnestly requested.


RAUL V. DEL MAR

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HOUSE BILL NO. 366

Introduced by: **REP. RAUL V. DEL MAR**

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

*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 “Strengthening and
Enhancing the Use of English as 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 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 the
medium of instruction in all levels of education, from the preschool to the tertiary
level.

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

- (a) “Medium of Instruction (MOI)” refers to the language or dialect used in
teaching.

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

(c) "Parents, Teacher and Community Association (PTCA)" refers to a group of parents and teachers organized for welfare of a school and its pupils.

(d) "Regional or native language" refers to the regional language or any dialect prevailing from June to March.

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

SEC. 4. *Medium of Instruction (MOI).* – 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 preschool until Grade III.

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

(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 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 school and state colleges and universities at all level shall use English as the language of assessment: *Provided, however,* That 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 DepED, in consultation with the 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 Members from the Senate and three 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 Members representing the Minority.

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

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

- (a) Participate in the crafting of the IRR;
- (b) Approve the final draft of the IRR;
- (c) Set the guidelines and the 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 legislations 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 who may be seconded therefrom. It may likewise retain the services of consultants.

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

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All executive orders, laws and department orders and part thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *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,