

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 727



Introduced by *Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

When Secretary Armin Luistro announced of the 2012 Scholarship Program for Special Education that would entitle only thirty (30) special education teachers handling children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) from across the country, the call seems to amplify beyond the limited institutional capacity of the department.

Fact is, it serves public notice to other institutions of realpolitik, not the least, the legislators or policy makers if there is any other option they can muster in terms of supplemental budget or appropriation. It is in this context that the bill envisions that every legislative district throughout the country be allotted the budget requirements to support special education teachers to pursue training and education on the field at the Philippine Normal University.

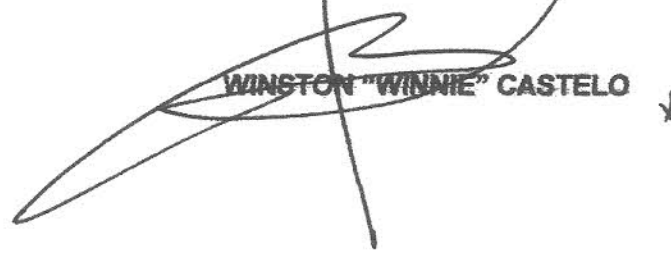
The idea of this proposed bill is not only to have a limited number of teachers-scholars or special education teachers who will later cater to children with autism but to form a sizeable community of teacher-scholars to train and to educate in the field of special education, the expertise acquired will augur well to this sector in education.

There is no denying that inclusive education means that all learners including those who are differently-abled should be cared for as well. SPED teachers and centers nationwide form the backbone for this mission to educate everyone or at the exclusion of not a single one on account of autism, ASD, or related concerns. For problems like these should not be a deprivation.

On a more important note, Dep Ed is signatory to the United Nations initiated EFA campaign which aims to ensure quality basic education accessible to all learners. This is quite apart from other education-outreach programs for indigenous peoples, out-of-school children, or learners in difficult circumstances.

The immediate passage of this urgent bill is therefore earnestly sought.

WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO

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AN ACT
ALLOTING PROPORTIONATE SCHOLARSHIP SLOTS IN EVERY LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT TO TRAIN AND EDUCATE TEACHER-SCHOLARS INVOLVED IN THE
FIELD OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATE SUFFICIENT FUNDS
THEREFOR

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the 'Special Education Scholarship Program of 2013'.

SEC. 2. Every legislative district throughout the country shall be allotted proportionate scholarship slots to train and educate teacher-scholars involved in the field of special education.

SEC. 3. The Department of Education shall issue guidelines, rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. The appropriation of P300,000 is hereby initially allocated to carry out the provisions of this Act and thereafter shall be included in the budget of the Department of Education based on corresponding adjusted rates.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days upon its approval and publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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