

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2727**



Introduced by HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4th DISTRICT, BULACAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Alternative Learning System (ALS), is a system of education considered as a viable alternative to the existing formal educational instruction. It is a parallel learning system that encompasses both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills. This system of education must be institutionalized to achieve the goals of basic education which is to promote the intellectual growth, worthy values, skills and physical well-being of the student; as well as the goals of secondary education which is to make the adolescent effective and efficient in the roles that he will play in the different social groups to which he belongs, whether in the academe or in the work force.

To realize this goal, Bureau of Alternative Learning System of the Department of Education (BALS-DepEd) must be strengthened.

The BALS-DepEd should be reorganized to prepare it to take on the mandate to implement the ALS under R.A. No. 9155, otherwise known as the *Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001*, which states among others that quality basic education should be accessible to all Filipino children, including the alternative learning system for the out-of-school-youth and adult learners. To do this, it must be clothed with ample functions, duties and responsibilities, complemented with a regular budgetary allocation.

The net effect of this structural reform in education is that poverty will be significantly reduced. The growing number of out-of-school youth (aged 6 to 24), which as of 2010 reached 19 million will definitely aggravate poverty incidence in our society if they are not effectively educated.

Support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Villarica".

REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

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Introduced by HON. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA
4TH DISTRICT, BULACAN

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING
SYSTEM IN BASIC EDUCATION, STRENGTHENING THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATIVE
LEARNING SYSTEM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 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 Alternative Learning System (ALS) Institutionalization Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to broaden the access of quality basic education by institutionalizing the Alternative Learning System as an acceptable learning system. This shall be a parallel scheme of the current formal basic education that would provide access to non-school-based basic, elementary and secondary education for all citizens, regardless of age.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* - It shall be the goal of the alternative learning system to impart knowledge, skills and values to out-of-school children, youth and adults so as to make them functionally literate citizens and lifelong learners.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms or phrases used shall mean or be understood as follows:

(a) Basic Education – the education intended to meet basic learning needs which lays the foundation for subsequent learning. It encompasses early childhood, elementary and high school as well as the alternative learning system for out-of-school children, youth and adult learners including education for those with special needs (R.A. No. 9155);

(b) Alternative Learning System – a parallel learning system to provide a viable alternative to the existing formal education instruction. It encompasses both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills (R.A. No. 9155);

(c) Conceptual Functional Literacy – a range of skills and competencies cognitive, affective and behavioral, which enables individuals to:

- ◆ live and work as human persons;
- ◆ develop their potential;
- ◆ make critical and informed decisions;
- ◆ function effectively in society within the context of their community in order to improve their quality of life.

(d) Operational Functional Literacy is the capacity of a person to:

- ◆ communicate effectively;
- ◆ solve problems scientifically, creatively, and think critically;
- ◆ use resources sustainably and be productive; and
- ◆ develop oneself and a sense of community.

(e) Life skills – learning competencies of a functionally literate person such as empathy, cooperation and teamwork, problem solving skills, decision making, critical thinking, coping and self-management skills and others;

(f) Lifelong Learning – a learning process beginning at birth and ending only with death which allows an individual to continue to learn and develop knowledge and competencies necessary for one's effective participation in solving real life problems in the society;

(g) Non-formal Education – an organized, systematic educational program of the existing ALS curriculum carried outside the framework of the formal school system;

(h) Informal Education – a lifelong learning program of the existing ALS curriculum which enables every person to acquire and accumulate knowledge, skills, attitudes and insights from daily experiences at home, at work, at play and from life itself;

(i) Community Learning Center – a learning space (physical, electronic cyber) where the learning intervention takes place and which is managed by a learning facilitator;

(j) Learning Facilitator – the key learning support person who is responsible for providing the learning intervention to the learner in the community learning center. The learning facilitator may be a:

- ◆ Mobile teacher/district ALS Coordinator is a DepEd teacher of the ALS based in the community learning center;
- ◆ A DepEd Coordinator of the ALS based at the District Office;
- ◆ Instructional Manager is a private individual trained to deliver ALS programs in the community learning center.

(k) ALS Implementers – all DepEd and non-DepEd personnel who deliver ALS programs including ALS Service Providers and Volunteers;

(l) Service Provider – any public or private organization or person who implements ALS programs either through a service contract with DepEd or through funding assistance;

(m) Distance Learning – a modality of learning where the teaching and learning processes are conducted with the use of self-instructional material in multi-media formats, supervised by a learning facilitator and providing opportunities for independent study, multi-media learning and performance-based evaluation;

(n) Open High School – a secondary level program of the ALS for school teachers using distance learning modality;

(o) Out-of-school children (OSC) – school age children who are 6 to 14 years old who are not enrolled in school;

(p) Out-of-school youth (OSY) – young adults aged 15 to 24 years old who were either unable to access or to complete basic education;

(q) ALS Learner – an individual, regardless of age, seek to acquire basic and functional literacy skills as well as life skills outside the school system for the improvement of the quality of his/her life.

SEC. 5. Establishing the ALS in Basic Education. - The Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS) of the Department of Education (DepEd) is established to implement the policy as pronounced under Section 2 of this Act. The ALS shall cover informal and non-formal education, pursuant to R.A. No. 9155, otherwise known as the “Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001”.

SEC. 6. Mandate of the Bureau of Alternative Learning System. - The BALS shall provide for the education of all out-of-school children (OSC); out-of-school youth and adults through community-based programs outside the school system and shall:

a.) ensure that all learning needs of marginalized groups of the population, including the deprived and underserved citizens are addressed; and

b.) respond to the need of a more systematic and flexible approach in reaching out to all types of learners outside the school system.

In the pursuit of this mandate, the BALS shall be the overall administrator of the learning system in basic education at the national level and shall be responsible for standard-setting; planning and policy formulation; program and materials development and technical assistance; resource generation, information, advocacy and social mobilization; coordination/networking with stakeholders/partners; and monitoring, research evaluation of programs.

SEC. 7. Functions of the BALS-DepEd. - The Bureau of Alternative Learning System shall have the following functions:

a.) address the learning needs of the marginalized groups of the population including the deprived, depressed and underserved citizens through non-formal and informal education programs;

b.) coordinate with various agencies for skills development to enhance and ensure the learners' employability, efficiency, productivity and competitiveness in the labor market;

- c.) ensure access to educational opportunities for learners of different interests, capabilities, demographic characteristics and socio-economic origins and status; and
- d.) promote certification and accreditation through alternative learning programs – both non-formal and informal in nature, for basic education

SEC. 8. *Organization.* - The Bureau shall be reorganized into the following divisions, namely:

- a.) Quality Assurance Division – for monitoring and evaluation, management information system and assessment and certification;
- b.) Policy, Planning and Resource Mobilization Division – for research and development, networking and advocacy;
- c.) Program Development Division – for learning resource and materials development, building and methodologies of learning;
- d.) Administrative Section – provides support to the regular operations of the Bureau

The ALS shall be completely organized from the regional, division and district levels with the needed staff complement to effectively implement the plans, policies and programs as mandated under this Act.

The regional office headed by a Regional Director and the division office headed by an Education Supervisor shall be with the appropriate staffing complement for programs promotion, planning, administrative and fiscal services. The division office shall have legal, ancillary and other support services. The district level shall be headed by a District Supervisor to provide professional and instructional advise and support to the Mobile Teachers, District ALS Coordinators (DALCs) and other program implementers in the district.

There shall be an Undersecretary for ALS who shall exercise overall authority and supervision over its operations and those in the field.

SEC. 9. *Community Learning Centers.* - There shall be established a Community Learning Center (CLC) in all barangays which shall serve as a venue for learning activities and other learning opportunities for community development and general improvement of the people's quality of life.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Bureau of Alternative Learning System of the Department of Education, in coordination with the appropriate government agencies shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations within the period of ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's budget of the BALS-DepEd. Thereafter, the amount equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the annual budget of the DepEd shall be appropriated for the continued operations of the BALS and shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,