

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

2867

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by **Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The "Open High School System" could be likened, albeit figuratively, to a manna from heaven.

It would tap unrealized need for the benefit of the following stakeholders, namely:

- 1) children or youth in areas of armed conflict
- 2) out-of-school youth
- 3) students living in far-flung or remote areas
- 4) youth offenders detained in correctional institutions
- 5) youth who have to eke out a living while studying
- 6) adults who wish to finish secondary education

This bill, deliberated upon in both Senate and House of Representatives in the 14th Congress, envisions e-learning as a very viable educational system enabling children, youth, even adults to start, continue, resume and eventually finish their secondary education outside of the conventional classroom setting.

Of course, there are sufficient provisions in the 1987 Constitution supportive of this rather bold, innovative, creative approach to the Philippine educational system.

Distance learning center would be a necessary component to this program staffed by regular secondary school teachers and adviser.

As stipulated in the proposed measure, it shall be open to all youth and even adults who have finished elementary education and high school qualifiers of the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT).

The swift passage of this all too important bill is henceforth, most fervently prayed for.

CONG. WINSTON "WINNIE" T. CASTELO
2nd District, Quezon City

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Introduced by *Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo*

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES
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 "Open High School System Act of 2010."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to broaden access to relevant quality education through the employment of an alternative learning system that would enable the youth including adults to overcome geographical, socio-economic and/or physical constraints to their completion of secondary education.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms*. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

(A). "Open High School System" is a system of delivering educational services to high school students utilizing print, radio, television and computer-based communications, satellite broadcasting, teleconferencing, and other multi-media learning and teaching technologies that allow students to study on their own without having to regularly attend classes in conventional classrooms.

(B). "Distance Learning Program" is an educational program whereby the teaching and learning processes are accomplished through self-instructional materials that allow independent study, multi-channel learning and school-family-community partnership.

(C). "Inang Paaralan or Mother High School" is a regular secondary school in the regional or division level that functions, among others, as:

- (1) Headquarters of the distance learners and teachers;

- (2) Center for enrolment, evaluation, direct or face-to-face instruction and promotion of distance learners;
- (3) Receiver of donations, instructional materials and reports relative to distance learning; and
- (4) Coordinator of the different learning centers in the community.

(D). "*Guro*" is a regular secondary school teacher of the *Inang Paaralan* who is in charge of direct instruction, evaluation of student progress and keeping of the records of individual learners.

(E). "*Gurong Tagapatnubay*" is a regular secondary school teacher of the *Inang Paaralan* who serves as guidance counselor to the distance learners; coordinates with the *Guro* and *Para Guro* in evaluating the students' progress; and prepares and submits reports to the authorities concerned;

(F). "*Gurong Kadluan*" is a resource person with specialized skills in practical or industrial subjects such as farming, handicraft, auto-mechanics, tailoring and other skills.

(G). "*Para Guro*" is a degree holder or college level citizen/resident in the community who manages a learning center and facilitates the learning process of a group of distance learners;

(H). "*Tagapagpayong Pansamahan*" is the adviser of a club in a community who helps learners harmonize study with community service and leisure.

SEC. 4. *Institutionalization of the Open High School System.* – To carry out the above-declared policy, the Open High hereinafter referred to as the System is hereby institutionalized in the Philippines in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to public secondary educational institutions with existing distance learning programs and all other such institutions that shall later be authorized as qualified implementers of the System.

All existing programs and projects of the Bureau of Secondary Education regarding dropout intervention and poverty alleviation through education shall be part of the Open High School System.

SEC. 6. *Clientele of the System.* – The System shall be open to all youth and adults who have finished elementary education and high school qualifiers of the Philippine Educational Placement Test (PEPT).

SEC. 7. *Administration and Supervision.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall administer and supervise the System. An Open High School Unit shall be attached to the Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE) to assist the Bureau in performing the following functions:

- (A) Formulate the objectives and basic policies of the System;

- (B) Formulate, adopt and supplement programs that will make the System effective and productive;
- (C) Monitor and evaluate existing distance learning programs for integration with the System;
- (D) Develop and validate prototype instructional distance learning materials;
- (E) Consult and collaborate with other DepEd divisions, local government units (LGUs), non-government organization (NGOs) and other private agencies for the effective operation of the System;
- (F) Promulgate the necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the System;
- (G) Recommend to the DepEd the annual budget of the System for inclusion in the General Appropriations Act for the year; and
- (H) Perform such other tasks as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the System.

SEC. 8. *Establishment of Distance Learning Centers.* – Distance learning centers shall be established in the *Inang Paaralan* or in the community. The center is a room of building where the distance learners can conduct researches or gather additional information on topics under study. It can also serve as a venue where the *Gurong Kadluan* can conduct hands-on exercises/activities.

SEC. 9. *Collaboration between the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Interior and Local Government Unit (DILG).* – The DepEd and DILG shall sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) defining the role of local government units in the operation of the System in order to ensure maximum collaboration between DepEd and local government units toward the success of the System.

SEC. 10. *Role of Government Broadcast Stations and Telecommunication Networks.* – Government broadcast stations and telecommunication networks shall provide the necessary assistance and support to the System; *Provided, That* private stations and networks shall also be encouraged to provide the same.

SEC. 11. *Role of Parents.* – Parents of distance shall be provided with adequate information on the System as well as for sharing experiences to enable them to competently assist their children in their distance learning.

SEC. 12. *Personnel Recruitment and Incentives.* – All personnel involved in the System shall have adequate and appropriate education and training to be determined by the BSE-DepEd. Teachers or *Guro*s and *Gurong Tagapatnubay* shall receive incentives and/or monetary compensation as determined by the BSE-DepEd while *Para Guro*, *Gurong Kadluan* and *Tagapayong Pansamahan* shall receive honoraria, to be arranged with the local school board.

It shall be the duty of the local government units concerned to employ the Para Guro, Gurong Kadluan and Tagapayong Pansamahan in accordance with the guidelines on hiring such personnel prepared upon consultation with the BSE-DepEd and issued by the same LGUs.

SEC. 13. *Training of the System's Teachers.* – The Open High School Unit attached to the Bureau of Secondary Education shall take charge of the training of

the *Guro*, *Gurong Tagapatnubay*, *Gurong Kadluan*, *Para Guro* and *Tagapayong Pansamahan*.

The training of the *Para Guro*, *Gurong Kadluan* and *Tagapayong Pansamahan* shall be in coordination with the local government units and non-government organizations concerned.

SEC. 14. *Curriculum Content.* – The System shall adopt the National Secondary Education Curriculum (NSEC) using the Philippine Secondary Schools Learning Competencies (PSSLC).

The Open High School System Unit in collaboration with the Curriculum Development Division, Bureau of Second Education (BSE) shall modify the herein adopted curriculum, devise a rating system, instructional strategies and materials that will suit the psycho-social needs and physical condition of conduct disorder and antisocial learners who are detained in correctional institutions. In the discharge of this function, the BSE shall consult with professional psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers and other related experts who manage or deal with youth offenders who are undergoing rehabilitation.

SEC. 15. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Education, through the Curriculum Development Division of the Bureau of Secondary Education, upon prior consultation with the Committees on Education of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within a period of ninety (90) days after its approval;

SEC. 16. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act, shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Distance Learning Program of the BSE-DepEd. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder thereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 19. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,