

Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3406**



**Introduced by Honorable Anthony M. Bravo and Honorable
Cresente C. Paez**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is always a priority among the Filipino families. A big part of each family's budget goes to education. However, with poverty, more and more children drop out from school and fail to get the basic education that they need to do well in life. As a result, there is an increasing concern about the growing number of illiterate Filipinos.

To help solve this problem, there are many non-government organizations that offer their help in reaching out to our needy brethren and provide basic education to those who can afford it. Many of them have spearheaded invaluable initiatives to ensure that everyone will have the necessary skills to be productive members of our society. In order to maximize these efforts, we should establish a national coordinating organization that will allow sharing of knowledge, experience and resources among different organizations.

This bill seeks to establish the National Literacy Institute which shall be tasked with the research and formulation and implementation of literacy programs that will ensure that the nationwide efforts are properly coordinated and the best practices are uniformly implemented.


HON. ANTHONY M. BRAVO


HON. CRESENTE C. PAEZ

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9 HOUSE BILL NO. **3406**

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11 **Introduced by Honorable Anthony M. Bravo and Honorable**
12 **Cresente C. Paez**

13
14 **AN ACT**
15 **MANDATING THE CREATION OF**
16 **THE NATIONAL LITERACY INSTITUTE**

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

17 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “National Literacy Institute
18 Act of 2013.”

19 SECTION 2. *Purpose.* – The purpose of this Act is to establish a National Literacy
20 Institute that—

21 A. provides national leadership regarding literacy;

22 B. coordinates literacy services and policy; and

23 C. serves as a national resource for literacy programs by—

24 1. providing the best and most current information available in the area of
25 phonemic awareness, systematic phonics, fluency, and reading
26 comprehension to all educational institutions that provides literacy
27 development program; and

28 2. supporting the creation of new ways to offer services of proven
29 effectiveness.

1 SECTION 3. *Establishment.* – There is hereby established the National Literacy
2 Institute (hereinafter referred to as the “Institute”).

3 The Institute shall be administered under the terms of an interagency agreement
4 entered into by the Secretary of Education with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of
5 Health (in this section referred to as the “Interagency Group”). The Interagency Group may
6 include in the Institute any research and development center, institute, or clearinghouse
7 established within the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, or the Department
8 of Health the purpose of which is determined by the Interagency Group to be related to the
9 purpose of the Institute.

10 SECTION 4. *Offices.* – The Institute shall have offices separate from the offices of the
11 Department of Education, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Health.

12 SECTION 5. *Recommendations.* – The Interagency Group shall consider the
13 recommendations of the National Literacy Institute Advisory Board (in this section referred
14 to as the “Board”) established in this Act in planning the goals of the Institute and in the
15 implementation of any programs to achieve the goals. If the Board's recommendations are not
16 followed, the Interagency Group shall provide a written explanation to the Board concerning
17 actions the Interagency Group takes that are inconsistent with the Board's recommendations,
18 including the reasons for not following the Board's recommendations with respect to the
19 actions. The Board may also request a meeting of the Interagency Group to discuss the
20 Board's recommendations.

21 SECTION 6. *Daily Operations.* – The daily operations of the Institute shall be
22 administered by the Director of the Institute.

1 SECTION 7. *Duties.* - In order to provide leadership for the improvement and
2 expansion of the system for delivery of literacy services, the Institute is authorized--

3 A. to establish a national electronic data base of information that disseminates
4 information to the broadest possible audience within the literacy and basic skills
5 field, and that includes—

- 6 1. effective practices in the provision of literacy and basic skills instruction,
7 including instruction in phonemic awareness, systematic phonics, fluency,
8 and reading comprehension, and the integration of literacy and basic skills
9 instruction with occupational skills training;
- 10 2. public and private literacy and basic skills programs, and national, and
11 local policies, affecting the provision of literacy services at the national,
12 and local levels;
- 13 3. opportunities for technical assistance, meetings, conferences, and other
14 opportunities that lead to the improvement of literacy and basic skills
15 services; and
- 16 4. a communication network for literacy programs, providers, social service
17 agencies, and students;

18 B. to coordinate support for the provision of literacy and basic skills services across
19 government agencies and at the national and local levels;

20 C. to coordinate the support of reliable and replicable research and development on
21 literacy and basic skills in families across government agencies and to carry out
22 basic and applied research and development on topics that are not being
23 investigated by other organizations or agencies, such as the special literacy needs
24 of individuals with learning disabilities;

- 1 D. to collect and disseminate information on methods of advancing literacy that show
- 2 great promise, including phonemic awareness, systematic phonics, fluency, and
- 3 reading comprehension;
- 4 E. to provide policy and technical assistance to national and local entities for the
- 5 improvement of policy and programs relating to literacy;
- 6 F. to fund a network of literacy resource centers to assist national and local public
- 7 and private nonprofit efforts to improve literacy by—
- 8 1. encouraging the coordination of literacy services;
- 9 2. enhancing the capacity of national and local organizations to provide
- 10 literacy services; and
- 11 3. serving as a link between the Institute and providers of literacy activities
- 12 for the purpose of sharing information, data, research, expertise, and
- 13 literacy resources;
- 14 G. to coordinate and share information with national organizations and associations
- 15 that are interested in literacy and workforce investment activities;
- 16 H. to advise the legislative and executive departments and agencies regarding the
- 17 development of policy with respect to literacy and basic skills; and
- 18 I. to undertake other activities that lead to the improvement of the country's literacy
- 19 delivery system and that complement other such efforts being undertaken by
- 20 public and private agencies and organizations.

21 SECTION 8. *Priority.* – The Institute shall give priority to adults and individuals with

22 disabilities in the performance of its duties as provided in this Act.

23 SECTION 9. *Grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.* – The Institute may

24 award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, individuals, public or

1 private institutions, agencies, organizations, or consortia of such institutions, agencies, or
2 organizations to carry out the activities of the Institute.

3 SECTION 10. *Literacy Leadership.* – The Institute, in consultation with the Board,
4 may award fellowships, with such stipends and allowances that the Director considers
5 necessary, to outstanding individuals pursuing careers in literacy in the areas of instruction,
6 management, research, or innovation.

7 Fellowships awarded under this section shall be used, under the auspices of the
8 Institute, to engage in research, education, training, technical assistance, or other activities to
9 advance the field of literacy, including the training of volunteer literacy providers at the
10 national, or local level.

11 SECTION 11. *Interns and volunteers.* – The Institute, in consultation with the Board,
12 may award paid and unpaid internships to individuals seeking to assist the Institute in
13 carrying out its mission. Subject to applicable labor laws, the Institute may accept and use
14 voluntary and uncompensated services as the Institute determines necessary.

15 SECTION 12. *National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board.* – There shall be a
16 National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board (in this section referred to as the “Board”),
17 which shall consist of 10 individuals appointed by the President with the advice and consent
18 of the Senate.

19 SECTION 13. *Composition.* – The Board shall be comprised of individuals who are
20 not otherwise public officers or employees and who are representative of entities such as—

21 A. literacy organizations and providers of literacy services, including nonprofit
22 providers, providers of English literacy programs and services, social service
23 organizations, and eligible providers receiving assistance under this subtitle;

- 1 B. businesses that have demonstrated interest in literacy programs;
- 2 C. literacy students, including literacy students with disabilities;
- 3 D. experts in the area of literacy research;
- 4 E. local governments; and
- 5 F. representatives of employees, including representatives of labor organizations.

6 SECTION 14. *Duties of the Board.* – The Board shall –

- 7 A. make recommendations concerning the appointment of the Director and staff of
- 8 the Institute;
- 9 B. provide independent advice on the operation of the Institute; and
- 10 C. receive reports from the Interagency Group and the Director.

11 SECTION 15. *Appointment of Board Members.* – Each member of the Board shall be
12 appointed for a term of 3 years, except that the initial terms for members may be 1, 2, or 3
13 years in order to establish a rotation in which one-third of the members are selected each
14 year. Any such member may be appointed for not more than 2 consecutive terms.

15 Any member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term
16 for which the member's predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the remainder
17 of that term. A member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor
18 has taken office.

19 SECTION 16. *Quorum.* – A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a
20 quorum but a lesser number may hold hearings. Any recommendation of the Board may be
21 passed only by a majority of the Board's members present.

1 SECTION 17. *Election of Officers of the Board.* – The Chairperson and Vice
2 Chairperson of the Board shall be elected by the members of the Board. The term of office of
3 the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall be 2 years.

4 SECTION 18. *Meetings.* – The Board shall meet at the call of the Chairperson or a
5 majority of the members of the Board.

6 SECTION 19. *Gifts, Bequests and Devices.* – The Institute may accept, administer,
7 and use gifts or donations of services, money, or property, whether real or personal, tangible
8 or intangible.

9 The Board shall establish written rules setting forth the criteria to be used by the
10 Institute in determining whether the acceptance of contributions of services, money, or
11 property whether real or personal, tangible or intangible, would reflect unfavorably upon the
12 ability of the Institute or any employee to carry out the responsibilities of the Institute or
13 employee, or official duties, in a fair and objective manner, or would compromise the
14 integrity or the appearance of the integrity of the Institute's programs or any official involved
15 in those programs.

16 SECTION 20. *Report.* – The Institute shall submit a report annually to the appropriate
17 committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives. Each report submitted under this
18 section shall include—

19 A. a comprehensive and detailed description of the Institute's operations, activities,
20 financial condition, and accomplishments in the field of literacy for the period
21 covered by the report;

22 B. a description of how plans for the operation of the Institute for the succeeding
23 fiscal year will facilitate achievement of the goals of the Institute and the goals of

1 the literacy programs within the Department of Education, the Department of
2 Labor, and the Department of Health; and

3 C. any additional minority, or dissenting views submitted by members of the Board.

4 SECTION 21. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
5 of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Education under
6 the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its full
7 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and
8 separate item.

9 SECTION 22. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
11 valid and subsisting.

12 SECTION 23. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
13 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is
14 inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
15 accordingly.

16 SECTION 24. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
17 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,