

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3970**



Introduced by Representatives Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr. , and Jose L. Atienza Jr. and Irwin C. Tieng (BUHAY Party List)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The British School Manila (BSM), an educational institution owned and operated by the British Education, Inc. (BEI), has been continuously in operation in the Philippines since its establishment some thirty-seven (37) years ago in 1976. From its humble beginnings of two (2) classrooms with 36 students, it now has a purpose designed campus in the Fort Bonifacio Global City with about a thousand students composed of thirty-eight (38) nationalities, including Filipinos. Its class sizes are small (16-22) and all its teachers are United Kingdom or Commonwealth trained and/or experienced. It is proud to uphold the high standard of the British education system in a school that takes full advantage of its multi-cultural setting.

Since its founding, it has been the vision of BSM to deliver the highest standard of education in the Philippines for British children and for English-speaking children of Filipinos and other nationalities. BSM is well-known worldwide for its highest quality British education, following an adapted form of the English National Curriculum from Nursery to Year 11 designed to inspire learning through being both relevant and flexible. Its students are groomed and prepared for the International General Certificate of Secondary Education [(I)GCSE]¹ at 16, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma at 18. Based on all comparative assessments, children who studied in BSM perform well above UK and international expectations.

BSM is fully accredited through the Council of International Schools (CIS)² which is considered the premier accreditation agency for international schools worldwide. BSM is also an accredited IB World School,³ a member of the Federation of British International Schools in Asia (FOBISIA),⁴ and a member of the International Schools Athletic Conference (ISAC). BSM has thus earned its sacrosanct niche in education not only in the Philippines but worldwide.

The Legislature has, in the past, recognized other schools in the country as educational institutions of international character, as in the cases of Cebu International School, under Republic Act No. 9190, and Southville International School, under Republic Act No. 9493.

Other international schools created through legislative or executive fiat were the

¹ The (I)GCSEs and GCSEs are qualifications taken in years 10 and 11 and examined at the end of Year 11. They are a UK-based examinations used in English and Welsh schools in the UK and British Schools overseas. The (I)GCSEs and GCSEs measure students' abilities in specific subjects. Generally, students at BSM will take up to 12 subjects. Students are awarded grades from A* - G for each specific subject. All examination papers are externally marked in the UK.

² www.cois.org

³ www.ibo.org

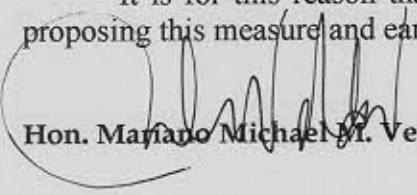
⁴ Formerly known as FOBISSEA; See www.fobissea.org.

International School Manila (P.D. No. 732), Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (P.D. No. 2021), and Brent International School (P.D. No. 2022), among others.

In the case of BSM, official government recognition has been extended by the Philippines Government through a modest document entitled "*Memorandum of Understanding*" (MOU) executed by and between the Department of Education (DepEd) and British Education, Inc. The first of such MOU was executed on May 6, 1976, the second, on May 31, 2001 and the latest, on November 23, 2011, between DepEd Secretary Armin A. Luistro, and BEI's Andrew Byrne, Chairman of its Council of Trustees.

After its more than four (4) decades of existence, operation and service in this country, it is high time that the Philippine Government through Congress extends its formal recognition to BSM as a distinguished educational institution of international character by enacting a law to that effect.

It is for this reason that the undersigned members of the House of Representatives are proposing this measure and earnestly seeking its passage.



Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.

Jose L. Atienza Jr.

Hon. Irwin C. Tieng

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AN ACT
RECOGNIZING THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA AS AN EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN
PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

Section 1. *Official Recognition.* – The British School Manila, herein referred to as the “School”, operated by the British Education, Inc., is hereby declared and officially recognized as an educational institution of international character authorized to operate educational programs that primarily and principally adhere to universally accepted and recognized educational policies.

Sec. 2. *Governing Body.* – The School shall be governed by a Council of Trustees, herein referred to as the “Council”, elected in accordance with its corporate charter.

Sec. 3. *Grant of Prerogatives.* – To enable the School to continue carrying out its educational program, improve its standard of instruction and meet the special needs of the foreign temporary resident community for quality education, it shall:

- (a) accept applicants for admission, regardless of nationality, in accordance with its own eligibility standards and rules for admission and grade placement;
- (b) be managed and administered by a Head of School, who shall possess the qualifications prescribed by the Council;
- (c) upon consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd), determine its own curriculum, calendar of studies and work schedule and teach whatever language or languages it may deem proper and determine the amount of fees and assessments which may be reasonably imposed upon its students, to maintain or conform to the School's standard of education;

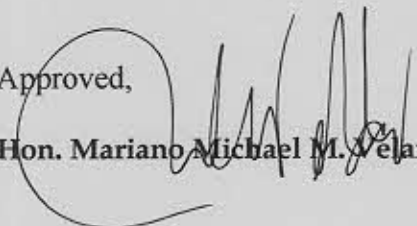
- (d) maintain standards of education compatible with those obtaining in similar schools of generally recognized standing; and
- (e) employ its own teaching and management personnel selected by the Council either locally or abroad, from the Philippines or other nationalities, such foreign personnel being exempt from laws that impose nationality restrictions on control and administration of educational institutions, except laws that have been or will be enacted for the protection of employees: *Provided*, That such exception shall not extend to their liability from income taxes.

Sec. 4. Implementing Rules. – The DepEd Secretary shall issue such rules as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 5. Severability. – If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,


Hon. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr.

Jose L. Atienza Jr.

Hon. Irwin C. Tieng