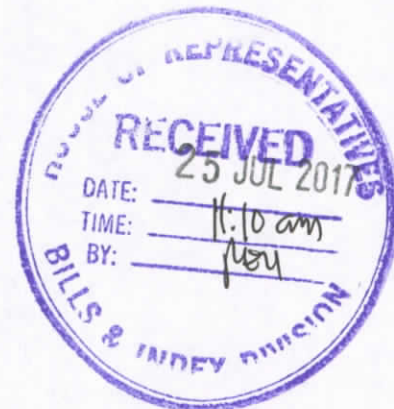


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **6032**



Introduced by Representative Ron P. Salo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The British School Manila (BSM), an educational institution owned and operated by the British Education, Inc., has been continuously operating in the Philippines since its establishment in 1976. From its humble beginnings of two (2) classrooms with 36 students, it now has a sprawling campus in the Fort Bonifacio Global City with about a thousand students composed of thirty-eight (38) nationalities, including Filipinos.

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 of British education, following an adapted form of the English National Curriculum from Nursery to Year 9 designed to inspire learning, which is both relevant and flexible. Its students are groomed and prepared for end of Key Stage in Primary, International General Certificate of Secondary Education [IGCSE] at age 16, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma at age 18.

After more than four (4) decades of its 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.

Hence, the immediate passing of this bill is earnestly sought.


RON P. SALO
KABAYAN Partylist

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

Be it 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 through its international accreditations from institutions such as Council of International Schools (CIS) and the International Baccalaureate Office (IBO), which confer international recognition to stakeholders all over the world. The school shall be subject to applicable laws, rules and regulations and other issuances issued by the government and to such limitations as the Department of Education (DepEd) may impose.

SEC. 2. Members of the School. – The school shall be comprised of the school personnel or management, students and their parents and/or guardians, whether of the Philippine or foreign nationality.

SEC. 3. Governing Body.– The School shall be governed by its board of trustees also known as the Council of Trustees, herein referred to as the “Council”, elected in accordance with the corporation code of the Philippines and its corporate charter; Provided, that, eighty percent (80%) of its trustees must be residents of the Philippines and forty percent (40%) of which must be reserved for Filipinos; Provided, further, that the Department of Education shall determine the qualifications of the trustees.

SEC. 4. 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 its school 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: Provided, that the school shall not give less priority to the citizens of the Philippines, as its host country by ensuring that no single alien nationality shall consist more than thirty percent (30%) of the entire student population in a given school year, as stated in the records of the school;
- (b) Be managed and administered by a Head of School, who shall possess qualifications prescribed by the Council and subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Education;
- (c) Upon the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Education, it shall:
 - I. Determine its own curriculum;
 - II. Endeavor to promote international friendship, goodwill and understanding among its students as well as among members of the foreign and educational community and citizens of the Philippines;
 - III. Establish its calendar of studies and work schedule to maximize efficiency and maintain, enhance, improve, and promote the quality of education or instruction it has adopted for the benefit of its students;
 - IV. Teach whatever language or languages it may deem proper;
 - V. Impose reasonable amount of fees and assessments in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Education.
- (d) Uphold standards of education compatible, if not superior with those obtaining in similar schools of recognized international standing;
- (e) Engage and support the host country through meaningful and reflective service and provide an atmosphere that creates deep understanding of current issues within the cultural context; and
- (f) Employ qualified teaching and management personnel selected by the Council either locally or abroad, from the Philippines or other nationalities, in accordance with the qualification standards provided by the Department of

Education: Provided, that fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction from Filipinos or foreign hired shall be implemented. Such foreign personnel are 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 be extended to their liability from income taxes.

SEC. 5. Supervision and regulation of the Department of Education. – Notwithstanding the recognition and prerogatives under this act, the British School Manila shall be under the supervision and regulation of the Department of Education and shall adhere to basic laws, and rules and regulations of the Department of Education governing international or foreign schools.

SEC.6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.– Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education or his representative, the School's administration, representatives from the parents of the School's students, and representative from private educational associations in coordination with the other government agencies concerned shall issue such rules as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. – 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. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules or regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this decree are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette, or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.