

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7186

Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Voluntary accreditation has been used by private schools as a means of ensuring quality education. Accreditation as a form of peer review, establishes the criteria to encourage maintenance of standards among different private schools. After analyses of the qualifications of a particular institution, a certification can be issued as evidence that it passes a certain standard, which is above the minimum qualifications for government recognition.

The State has a stake in developing and improving quality of education in private institutions, given the complementary role of private schools in education. Voluntary accreditation pushes private schools to exceed the minimum standards and guidelines required in light of the assurance to the public that they offer higher quality. Despite their contribution, the voluntary accreditation movement has not received any financial assistance from the government.

This bill hopes to motivate more private schools to undergo accreditation, as well as provide support for accrediting bodies in order to encourage quality improvement.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is most earnestly sought.

WINNIE CASTELO

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**"AN ACT ENCOURAGING VOLUNTARY ACCREDITATION OF
PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Voluntary Accreditation of Private Schools Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The Constitution recognizes the importance of education for the nation's development and progress. Article II, Section 7 of the Constitution provides that it is the policy of the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Article XIV Section 1 further provides that the state shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

SEC. 3. Membership of private schools in accrediting associations or agencies shall be encouraged as a scheme to promote high standards of education.

SEC. 4. Without prejudice to the authorization of other accrediting agencies in the future by the Department of Education (DepEd) and/ or Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the following shall be the officially recognized accrediting bodies to conduct accreditation activities:

- a) The Philippine Association of Accrediting Agencies of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU);
- b) The Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities-Commission on Accreditation (PACU-COA);
- c) The Association of Christian Schools and Colleges Accrediting Association Inc (ACSC-AAI);
- d) The Accrediting Association of Chartered Colleges and Universities of the Philippines (AACCUP);

SEC. 5. Without prejudice to the internal rules promulgated by the accredited agency, the accreditation process, in general, shall be:

- (a) Institutional self-evaluation
- (b) Self-evaluation for the program to be applied for accreditation
- (c) Preliminary visit
- (d) Formal survey visit
- (e) Decision by the governing board of the accrediting agency
- (f) Notification about lapses, shortcomings, and/or failure to meet a certain standard or requirement for a particular accreditation level to give the school reasonable time and opportunity to comply or meet the deficiency.
- (g) The accrediting agency will submit its decision for accreditation within six months from the last formal survey visit, stating a comprehensive and detailed report of the evaluation.

SEC. 6. The DepEd or CHED, as the case may be, shall allocate an amount for the subsidy or funding assistance of accreditation activities by the different accrediting bodies for efficient administration and implementation.

SEC. 7. In coordination with the DepEd and CHED, the accrediting bodies shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations for the effective and immediate implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or section of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions and sections not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, or issuances, or any part thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.