



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **7894**



Introduced by Representative Jose Enrique S. Garcia III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2013, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) spearheaded the first International Conference on Learning Cities. The concept of a learning city was developed and defined as *"a city which effectively mobilizes its resources in every sector to a) promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education; b) revitalize learning in families and communities; c) facilitate learning for and in the workplace; d) extend the use of modern learning technologies; e) enhance quality and excellence in learning; and f) foster a culture of learning throughout life."*¹

The participants of the conference adopted the belief that lifelong learning is the key to a sustainable and developed society. Awareness was raised that because social, economic and political landscapes are constantly changing, learning must be continuous, lifelong, and life-wide. The citizens must be regularly equipped with varying and shifting capacities necessary for living and working including literacy and basic skills; professional development and vocational skills; community engagement and active citizenship.

This bill seeks to introduce lifelong learning by providing guidelines for the mandatory establishment of learning cities nationwide and providing benefits for the successfully compliant cities.

Support for this bill is thereby earnestly requested from my colleagues.

REP. JOSE ENRIQUE S. GARCIA III
Second District, Bataan

¹ United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, *Key Features of Learning Cities* (Beijing: United Nations, 2013), available from www.unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002267/226720e.pdf



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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LEARNING CITIES,
MANDATING COMPLIANCE WITH THE KEY FEATURES THEREOF AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as “The Lifelong Learning
2 Act of 2018.”

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to create an environment free of poverty, hunger, violence and war; and to
5 ensure equity, inclusion, and a healthy environment for everyone. Towards this
6 end, the State shall promote lifelong learning as a tool for a more sustainable and
7 secure nation by prescribing basic standards concerning the duties of the State and
8 local government units for the promotion of lifelong education.

9 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** – The following terms used in this Act are
10 hereby defined as follows:

11 a) Learning City - a city which effectively mobilizes its resources to a)
12 promote inclusive learning from basic to higher education; b)
13 revitalize learning in families and communities; c) facilitate learning
14 for and in the workplace; d) extend the use of modern learning
15 technologies; e) enhance quality and excellence in learning; and f)
16 foster a culture of learning throughout life;

17 b) Lifelong Education – all types of systematic educational activities
18 other than regular school curriculum, including supplementary
19 education, basic literacy education for adults, ability enhancement
20 education, culture and art education, and citizen’s participation
21 education;

1 c) Lifelong Educational Institutions – shall mean any establishment,
2 corporation, organization, or private teaching institutes established
3 mainly for lifelong education or providing lifelong vocational training
4 other than those offering supplementary education for school
5 curriculums.

6 d) Literacy Education – shall mean a systematic educational program
7 designed to teach adults who are unable to and read and write or lack
8 the necessary skills needed for basic literacy.

9 **SECTION 4. *Lifelong Education and Learning Cities Master Plan.*** – The
10 Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and
11 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority are hereby mandated to
12 jointly create a master plan for the establishment of Learning Cities and promotion
13 of lifelong education.

14 The master plan shall be for a period of five years each and shall include the
15 following:

16 a) Medium and long-term policy objectives and basic direction for
17 lifelong education promotion and the establishment of learning cities;

18 b) Implementation of lifelong education activities and guidelines for the
19 founding of lifelong educational institutions;

20 c) Investment plans and budgetary requirements for the promotion and
21 expansion of lifelong educational institutions and learning cities;

22 d) Guidelines for the evaluation of lifelong education programs and
23 learning cities.

24 The DepEd, CHED, and TESDA shall work in coordination with the
25 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and various Local
26 Government Units (LGUs) in the mandatory implementation and execution of the
27 master plan.

28 **SECTION 5. *Learning Cities.*** – The DepEd, CHED and TESDA, in coordination
29 with the DILG, may designate a locality as a Learning City pursuant to the criteria
30 to be prescribed in the implementing rules and regulations. A designated Learning
31 City shall enjoy additional support and funding for the following:

32 a) Establishment and operation of lifelong educational institutions;

33 b) Cultivation and posting of certified lifelong education teachers;

34 c) Development of lifelong education programs; and

35 d) Other projects to be conducted for the promotion of citizens'
36 participation in lifelong education.

SECTION 6. *Functions of Learning Cities.* - Heads of LGUs designated as Learning Cities, in coordination with DepEd, CHED and TESDA, shall be required to guide and support activities for the promotion of lifelong education whether initiated by the LGU or private lifelong educational institutions. If requested by such institutions, the LGU in coordination with DepEd, CHED and TESDA shall conduct trainings necessary to upgrade the capabilities of persons and institutions engaged in lifelong education activities.

The LGUs designated as Learning Cities are likewise mandated to comply with the following:

- a) Provide opportunities, counseling and information on lifelong education;
- b) Support the operation of lifelong educational programs;
- c) Establish and operate a lifelong study hall to operate lifelong educational programs; and
- d) Provide lifelong educational opportunities for residents within its jurisdiction.

SECTION 6. *Lifelong Educational Institutions.* - Lifelong Educational Institutions may be attached to existing elementary, middle school, senior high school, college, university or technical vocational institutions.

The heads of the schools or institutions may develop and adopt their own curriculum and methods of teaching based on the specific needs of each community and prevalent regional culture. The curriculum shall be designed and offered to all residents within its community regardless of age, sex, marital status, religion, political beliefs or educational attainment.

The classrooms, libraries, gymnasiums and other facilities of the various schools and institutions shall be made available for use in the promotion and conduct of lifelong education activities. Other public facilities may also be used free of charge for lifelong education activities.

SECTION 7. *Support and Subsidy for Lifelong Educational Institutions.* - The heads of the institutions offering Lifelong Education shall submit an annual report to the appropriate governing agency detailing the programs offered, number of attendees, and other relevant data necessary to assess the success of the program.

The governing agency, whether the DepEd, CHED, or TESDA shall include in its annual budget, the necessary amount to subsidize the continued operation of Lifelong Educational Institutions and other related activities.

SECTION 8. *Lifelong Education in Private Enterprises as Allowable Tax Deduction.* - Private corporations, institutions, workplaces and other similar establishments are encouraged to provide lifelong education to their employees or

1 conduct activities to promote lifelong learning.

2 Study leaves, whether paid or not, shall be extended to employees who wish
3 to expand their lifelong education. The subsidy provided to employees for lifelong
4 study expenses shall be allowed as deductions for tax purposes.

5 **SECTION 9. Literacy Education.** – The State and LGUs shall endeavor to
6 enhance basic capabilities including literacy for adults. Literacy education program
7 for adults shall be offered in designated schools within Learning Cities nationwide.

8 **SECTION 10. Guarantees.** – The following guarantees shall be respected at
9 all times:

10 a) All citizens shall be guaranteed equal opportunities for lifelong
11 education;

12 b) Lifelong education shall be conducted on a learners' willing
13 participation and voluntary study; and

14 c) Lifelong education shall not be exploited as a tool for political
15 propaganda or personal prejudices.

16 **SECTION 11. Appropriation.** – The funds necessary to initially implement
17 the provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the available funds of DepEd, CHED
18 and TESDA. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuing implementation of
19 the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
20 Act.

21 **SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DepEd, CHED and
22 TESDA shall, within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act,
23 jointly issue the rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this
24 Act.

25 **SECTION 13. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any part or provision
26 of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or
27 provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

28 **SECTION 14. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
29 orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this
30 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

31 **SECTION 15. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon
32 the approval and publication thereof.

33 *Approved.*