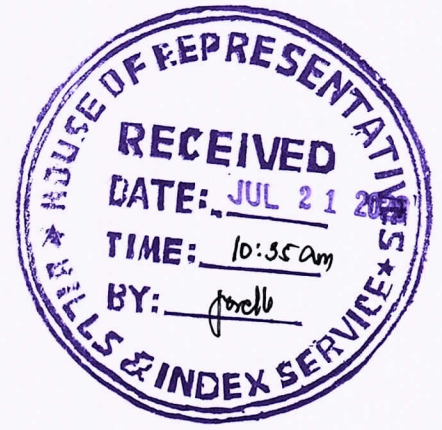


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7141



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

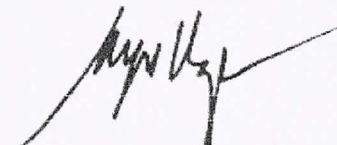
AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS AND
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL PARENT COUNCIL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution states its utmost recognition of the natural and primary right of parents in rearing the youth for civic efficiency and upright moral character. In our efforts to empower parents and parents associations, this bill proposes an institutionalized role for parents and their active participation in our educational system.

Education and learning should be holistic. Thus, the need for a strategic collaboration among parents, teachers, school management, the community, and the students is a must. Strengthening the role of parents associations leading to a national level parent council will help our educational system develop our youth to carry on the task of nation building.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS AND
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "National Parent Council Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies. — Pursuant to the Constitutional mandate that the government shall support the natural and primary right of the parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character, it is hereby declared the objectives of this Act:

- (a) The right and duty of parents to organize themselves and form associations for the purpose of ventilating their ideas in relation to the proper and effective education of their children shall be encouraged.
- (b) Parents associations shall be strengthened and given necessary incentives in order to serve best the welfare and given outmost benefits to the children; and
- (c) The Department of Education (DepEd) shall give due recognition, importance and support to parent associations as its partner in providing accessible and quality education.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — For purpose of this Act, the term:

- (a) "Parents Associations" refer to the organizations composed exclusively of parents and/or guardians of school children in the primary and

secondary levels established for the purpose of ensuring the welfare of the school children and students. Existing associations with the purpose and membership but under different names shall be considered parent associations under this Act.

(b) "School" refer to both public and private sectarian or non-sectarian educational institutions.

(c) "City" refers to both chartered and non-chartered cities.

SECTION 4. Coverage. — This Act shall apply to the network of parents associations established on a per-school basis, organized at the municipality and provincial levels. As such, parents associations at all levels within a municipality or city may form a Municipal or City parents associations, and all municipal and City parents associations within a province may form a Provincial parents association. The organization of these associations shall enable the parents to perform their role effectively for the benefits and welfare of the school children.

SECTION 5. Formation and Support of Parent Associations. — School authorities shall encourage, support and cooperate in the organization of parents associations.

Further, barangay, municipal, city and provincial officials shall provide the necessary assistance and support to parent association especially in the implementation of their school-based activities and projects.

SECTION 6. Incentives. — To encourage parents and enable them to function productively and efficiently, they shall be accorded the following:

(a) *Participation in Local Government Council Meetings and School Advisory Boards.* — There shall be a parent representative to the Committee on Education or its equivalent in the Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Panlungsod and the Sangguniang Panlalawigan as well as to the advisory body of each school, to be elected from among the members of municipal, city and provincial parent associations, respectively.

(b) *Exemption from Taxes.* — All contributions, gifts, donations, requests by members of the parents associations in favor of duly-approved projects that from part of the school plans shall be exempted from taxes.

(c) *Accreditation Requirement.* — The existence of a dynamic and effective parents association in a school shall be required by qualified accrediting agencies as an evaluative criterion for the accreditation of the school.

SECTION 7. National Parent Council. — To establish an effective and

appropriate body for an effective and continuing coordination between the Department of Education and the parents associations nationwide, and to encourage a closer working relationship which will not only promote the welfare of the school children but also to that of the community they live in, there is hereby created a National Parent Council, hereafter referred to as Council, to be composed of representatives elected from among the Provincial parents Associations.

Officers of the Council shall be elected from among the members.

There shall be an annual general assembly of the members to be coordinated closely with Office of the Secretary of the DepEd.

SECTION 8. Power and Functions. — The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To act as an advisory body to the DepEd and as such shall be attached to the Office of the Secretary for effective liaison and coordination;
- (b) To participate in the formulation of national guidelines as it refers to policies and procedures governing school fees, visual aids and practical application for curricular activities;
- (c) To assist, thru the municipality and provincial associations, the appropriate DepEd regional, provincial or municipal office in monitoring, overseeing and evaluating the implementation of school infrastructure projects;
- (d) To provide nationwide forum wherein the views of parents on relevant issues can be deliberate upon before these are brought to appropriate bodies for action;
- (e) To be an affective link between the DepEd and all agencies that deal with matters pertinent to schools;
- (f) To create such specialized committees and appoint members not only from within the Council but also from the municipal, city or provincial parents associations to help address successfully specific concerns; and
- (g) To request cooperation of any barangay, municipal, city, provincial or national official on any matter deemed necessary to carry out the provision of this Act.

SECTION 9. National Parents Association Week. — There is hereby declared a National Parents Association Week to be held during the first week of February of every year in order to highlight and give recognition to the achievement and importance of parents associations in their role in

giving accessible and quality education to the children.

Appropriation activities nationwide which will include the holding of the Annual General Assembly of the National Parent Council shall be undertaken and drawn up by the Council.

Expenses relevant to these activities, including the organization of an assembly, secretariat services, and attendance of members, speakers and guest shall be charged to the budget of DepEd.

SECTION 10. Appropriations. — A regular appropriation of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) shall be included in the annual budget of the Department of Education exclusively for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Department of Education (DepEd) shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 14. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,