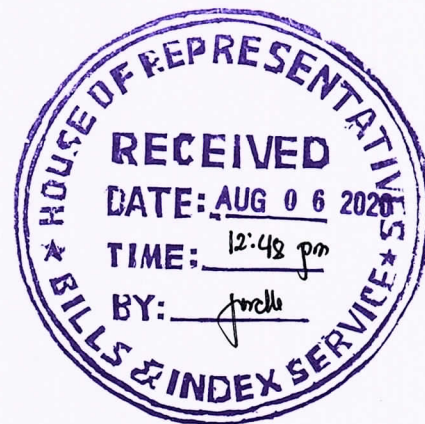


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7306



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

**AN ACT MANDATING ALL GOVERNMENT-OWNED
BROADCASTING STATIONS TO SERVE AS LEARNING DELIVERY
MODALITY, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS
THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Distance learning, also known as correspondence learning, is not something new in the Philippines or the world. Distance learning refers to a learning delivery modality where learning takes place between the teacher and the learners who are geographically remote from each other during instruction.¹ This method of learning targeted non-traditional learners such as full-time employees or those who could not physically attend a classroom lecture.²

Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, distance learning has become a mode of learning delivery not only for non-traditional learners but also for traditional learners. In ensuring continuous learning among our students, adapting to these changes brought about by the pandemic is necessary.

The current state of the country's digital infrastructure has become a challenge to distance learning, but this learning modality has different types. One of which is broadcast-based learning. Broadcast-based learning is a type of distance learning which uses broadcast media—television and radio—as learning delivery modalities. Television or radio-based instructions are usually utilized by students who do not have access to computers and/or are in remote areas with no internet connectivity.

Distance learning, particularly broadcast-based learning, as a mode of learning, should therefore not be limited during the pandemic. It must continuously be made available as an alternative. After all, the use of radio and television broadcast as distance learning solutions is a powerful way to

¹ Quiñones, M.T. 3 July 2020. DepEd clarifies blended, distance learning modalities for SY 2020-2021. Philippine Information Agency. Retrieved August 5, 2020 from <https://pia.gov.ph/news/articles/1046619>

² Moneymax. 9 June 2020. What is Distance Learning and How Does it Work? Retrieved on July 30, 2020 from <https://www.moneymax.ph/lifestyle/articles/distance-learning-philippines>

bridge the digital divide in the education sector and reach the most marginalized learners.³

Thus, this measure proposes to institutionalize broadcast-based learning for primary and secondary education in the Philippines in order to provide free, public, and accessible learning delivery modality for all learners. This mandates all government-owned broadcasting stations to provide free airtime for all broadcast-based learning programs developed by the Department of Education.

To ensure program sustainability, the bill also seeks collaboration between and among all concerned government agencies, government-owned broadcasting stations, and primary and secondary educational institutions.

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



ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

³ Learning through radio and television in the time of COVID-19. Retrieved on August 5, 2020 from <https://en.unesco.org/news/learning-through-radio-and-television-time-covid-19>

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7306

Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

**AN ACT MANDATING ALL GOVERNMENT-OWNED
BROADCASTING STATIONS TO SERVE AS LEARNING DELIVERY
MODALITY, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS
THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as “Broadcast-based Learning Act”.

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is a declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

To this end, the State shall ensure learning continuity and close equity gaps in the access to primary and secondary education by providing free and public broadcast-based open distance learning.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. *Broadcast-based Learning* refers to an open distance learning which uses broadcast media, such as television and radio, as delivery modality, whether solely or in combination with other learning delivery modalities;
- b. *Distance Education or Learning* refers to a mode of learning in which students and teachers are physically separated from each other. It is student-centered, guided independent study, making use of well-studied teaching and learning pedagogies to deliver well-designed learning materials in various media. It is also sometimes described as flexible learning and distributed learning;
- c. *Open Distance Learning* refers to the merger of two (2) concepts, that of open learning and distance education or learning. It is a system which combines the methodology of distance education with the concepts of open learning and flexible learning;

- d. *Open Learning* refers to a philosophy of learning that is based on flexibility and access for equity in education, an educational system accessible to every individual with minimal restrictions and emphasizing the flexibility of the system to eradicate problems caused by barriers like age, geographical location, time constraints and economic situation;
- e. *Radio Station* refers to a broadcast type radio network intended to reach a wide audience and can be linked to radio networks to broadcast a common radio format, either in broadcast syndication or simulcast or both; and
- f. *Television Network* refers to a telecommunications network for distribution of television program content, whereby a central operation provides programming to many television stations or pay television providers. It shall be referred to in this Act as "TV Network".

SECTION 4. *Institutionalization of Broadcast-Based Learning.* – Broadcast-based Learning is hereby institutionalized for primary and secondary education in the Philippines in order to provide free, public, and accessible learning delivery modality for all learners; *Provided*, that primary and secondary educational institutions are authorized to decide on the specific learning delivery modalities deemed appropriate in their context and consistent with existing guidelines and regulations.

SECTION 5. *Program and Curriculum Development.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall, in consultation with the Presidential Communications Operations Office ("PCOO"), Movie and Televisions Review and Classification Board (MTRCB):

- a. Develop a Broadcast-based Learning Program, hereinafter referred to as "Program";
- b. Develop a curriculum based on the Program that shall ensure that learning outcomes are clearly articulated in terms of competencies, skills, and behavioral attributes and conform to existing policies, standards, and guidelines;
- c. Hire the services of a producer to assist in the creation and production of the educational and instruction materials;
- d. Designate at least one (1) master teacher per grade level to deliver the educational and instruction materials in accordance with the Program; and
- e. Record, keep, compile or store all educational and instructional productions on the Program in media storage devices, which shall be made available for public distribution.

SECTION 6. *Allocation of Free Air Time.* – In coordination with the DepEd, PCOO, MTRCB, and other concerned agencies, all government-owned broadcasting stations are mandated to provide free airtime for all Broadcast-based Learning Programs, as follows:

- a. Two (2) hours a day for six (6) days every week, from Monday to Saturday; and
- b. One (1) hour per week for each grade level, from kindergarten to grade 12.

SECTION 7. *Tax Incentive.* – Expenses incurred by government-owned broadcasting stations in open distance learning educational and instruction materials shall be allowed an additional deduction from the gross income equivalent to fifty percent (50%) of such expenses.

SECTION 8. *Report of Violations.* – Any natural or juridical person may report any violation of this Act to the PCOO.

SECTION 9. *Penalty.* – Any person violating any provision of this Act shall be fined for an amount ranging from Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00) up to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP500,000.00). In case of individuals in the civil service, the administrative penalty or penalties shall be in addition to the fine imposed.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to initially implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the current year of the concerned departments and agencies. Thereafter, such sums, as may be necessary, for its continued implementation shall be included in the appropriation of the concerned departments and agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOST in coordination with Department of Budget and Management, Civil Service Commission, and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 12. *Monitoring Agency and Reports.* – The DepEd shall supervise and monitor the implementation of this Act, and shall report annually to the President and Congress the programs it carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* Any portion or provision of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying the other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portion or provision can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SECTION 14. *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 15. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,