



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5183



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF
CHILDREN (BCPC) IN THE PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF STREET
CHILDREN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

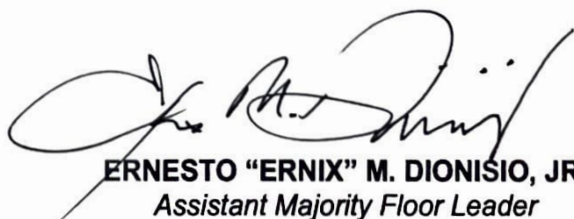
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under our 1987 Constitution, it is the policy of the State to "defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development."

According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development, there are approximately 250,000 children who live on the streets.¹ Their exposure and vulnerability to dangers involving their health and overall well-being should be a waking call for more measures to protect and safeguard them.

This proposed bill seeks to strengthen the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) in ensuring that street children are afforded the protection and care they rightfully deserve, in compliance with the policy of the State under our Constitution.

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


ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.
Assistant Majority Floor Leader
Congressman
First Congressional District of Manila

¹ <https://mb.com.ph/2019/09/30/de-lima-wants-senate-probe-into-alarming-rise-in-number-of-street-children/>



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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 the "Street Children Protection Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby the declared policy of the State to defend the right of children to protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development. To this end, the State shall enact measures to ensure that children's welfare is promoted by keeping them from the streets and thus encouraging their growth and development.

SECTION 3. Definition. – The term "street children" shall refer to children under the age of eighteen (18) years who spend a large percentage of their time living, working, and playing on the street. They are further classified into the following groups:

- (a) *Children on the street* – children who spend the majority of their time on the street for livelihood but return to their family home or residence on a regular basis;
- (b) *Children of the street* – children who spend the majority of their time living, playing and working on the street, but seldom return to their family home or residence, or not at all. They generally do not attend school, and have decided to live on the streets due to problems at home which include extreme poverty, violence, or substance abuse;
- (c) *Abandoned and neglected children* – children who are on the streets with no family or no known relatives or have been abandoned or neglected by, or displaced from their families or relatives; and

- (d) *Children of street families* – children who live with their families on the street or are considered homeless for long periods of time and who earn their livelihood on the streets.

SECTION 4. Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC). –

The BCPC shall have the following members:

- (a) Punong Barangay;
- (b) Barangay Kagawad (Chairperson on Women and Family);
- (c) Barangay Nutrition Scholar;
- (d) Barangay Day Care Worker;
- (e) Barangay Health Nurse / Midwife;
- (f) Barangay Health Worker;
- (g) Department of Education (DepEd) Principal/Teacher-in-charge;
- (h) Chief Tanod;
- (i) Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Chairperson;
- (j) Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) President or authorized representative; and
- (k) Two (2) representatives from a Non-Government Organization (NGO) concerned with the welfare of children and youth.

Upon assumption of office, the Punong Barangay is hereby mandated to convene the BCPC. The election of the BCPC Chairperson shall be held at the first meeting of the council.

SECTION 5. Roles and Functions of the BCPC. – In addition to its functions, the BCPC shall perform the following functions:

- (a) Coordinate with the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and such other government agencies, instrumentalities as well as NGOs in drawing and implementing plans for the promotion of child and youth welfare, particularly on issues concerning street children;
- (b) Monitor the existence of street children in their respective communities;
- (c) Prepare a report on the number of street children in its respective area of responsibility, discussing every case in full detail, including a brief history of how the child had been forced to spend most of the child's time on the streets. The said report shall be submitted to the CWC and the DSWD, including the local Social Welfare Department of its respective city or municipality;
- (d) Prepare an intervention plan for each of the case, which should be specifically based on the peculiarity of the circumstances of each child; and
- (e) Coordinate with the local government unit and NGOs promoting the welfare of street children.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the DWSW in consultation with other government agencies and instrumentalities as well as NGOs shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,