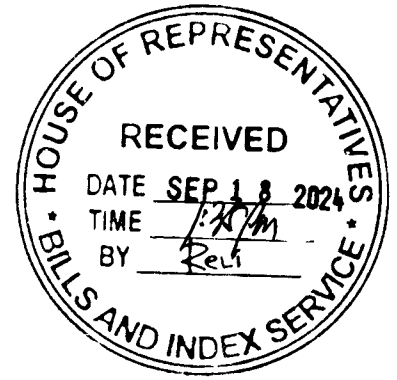




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10943**



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE
EARLY DETECTION AND TIMELY INTERVENTION SERVICES FOR
CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A study conducted by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) stated that there are approximately 1.6 million children with disabilities in the country. In addition, the Costs of Raising Children with Disabilities in the Philippines (CRCWD) study found that a child with disabilities needs an expenditure that is 40-80% higher than children without disabilities. This higher expense is often made worse by the lack of early detection and intervention services. This can lead to missed opportunities for the development of the children. Therefore, identifying disabilities early is crucial for providing the right support to these children in order for them to reach their full potential. Furthermore, timely interventions, such as therapy, can improve their development and reduce future costs for families and the society.

This measure aims to ensure accessible and affordable early detection and timely intervention services for children with special needs through the establishment of special needs

centers offering early intervention and transition programs. These centers shall also provide programs and services that will prepare special needs children for activities in mainstream society.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CR' followed by a stylized flourish.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as “Early Detection and Intervention
2 Services Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and
4 comprehensive approach to health development, which shall endeavor to make essential goods,
5 health, and other social services available to all the people at an affordable cost.

6 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – The following terms shall mean:

7 a. Special needs shall mean a variety of conditions, difficulties, and impairments,
8 including but not limited to chronic and terminal illnesses, physical impairments,
9 behavioral, cognitive, or psychiatric issues, and learning disability that causes an
10 individual to require additional or specialized services or accommodations such as
11 education or recreation. A special needs child may have a life-threatening condition
12 or they may have severe learning disabilities.

- 1 b. Intervention shall mean educational methods and positive behavioral support
2 strategies designed to improve the condition of a child suffering from a mental
3 disorder.

4 **SEC. 4. Early Detection and Timely Intervention Services.** – The Department of
5 Education (DepEd), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Interior and
6 Local Government (DILG) shall undertake to develop a program providing comprehensive
7 accessible, and affordable early detection and timely intervention services for children with
8 special needs. The objectives of this program include but are not limited to the following:

- 9 a. To increase awareness, reduce barriers to screening and diagnosis, promote and
10 evidence-based interventions for children with special needs or other
11 developmental disabilities.
- 12 b. To build a qualified and adequately trained workforce prepared to provide special
13 needs services for children and their families.
- 14 c. To conduct a comprehensive, multi-faceted public awareness campaign to educate
15 families, the general public, and other key audiences about the benefits of children's
16 social and emotional development, and how to access services.
- 17 d. To create a quality-driven children's special needs system with shared
18 accountability among agencies and programs that conducts ongoing needs
19 assessments, uses outcome indicators and benchmarks to measure progress, and
20 implements a quality data tracking and reporting system.

21 **SEC. 5. Special Needs Centers.** – All local government units shall endeavor to
22 establish special needs centers offering early intervention and transition programs and shall
23 provide programs and services that will prepare special needs children for activities in
24 mainstream society.

1 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The DepEd and the DOH, in
2 coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government, and in consultation with
3 the relevant private sector practitioners and representatives of the academic community, shall
4 promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this
5 Act, within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

6 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
7 shall be charged to the appropriations or funds of the implementing agencies and concerned
8 local government units.

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

12 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
13 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

14 **SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,