

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **3114**

Introduced by Representative CHING BERNOS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PARENT EFFECTIVENESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE PROGRAM
IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Parent Effectiveness Service (PES) was first introduced by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in 1981 through the release of the PES Handbook, developed by the then Bureau of Family and Child Welfare. It later became a key component of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) program, which was supported by UNICEF under Country Program for Children (CPC) II. The PES Manual was first printed in book form in 1987.

Following the enactment of Republic Act No. 7160, or the *Local Government Code of 1991*, the PES was among the programs devolved by the DSWD to local government units (LGUs). Despite devolution, the DSWD continued to enrich the PES Manual, releasing an updated version in 2001 to enhance the methodology, strategies, and content for use by local implementers in facilitating PES sessions in communities.

However, despite its institutional foundations, the implementation and impact of the PES remain largely unfelt. While it is included as a component of the ECCD Act, it does not receive the level of attention and support it rightfully deserves. This is despite provisions in the ECCD law mandating that LGUs continue to support the program through the construction of basic infrastructure, provision of facilities, materials, and equipment, and compensation for service providers.

The DSWD has also integrated PES materials into Family Development Sessions under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). However, its coverage is limited and does not reflect the comprehensive and sustained approach originally envisioned for PES.

The quality of care, support, and developmental opportunities that children receive during their formative years is critical. Meeting these needs depends greatly on the readiness, knowledge, and commitment of parents and parental substitutes to fulfill their roles. While child-rearing is an inherent responsibility of parents, the State also bears the duty to uphold the rights of children to proper care, nutrition, and protection from neglect, abuse, exploitation, and all forms of harm.

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



REP. CHING BERNOS
SOLID NORTH Party-List

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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 “*Parent Effectiveness Development Service Act.*”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. The State recognizes the sanctity of family life, protects the family as the basic social institution and foundation of the nation, strengthens its solidarity, and actively promotes its total development. It is also 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.

Towards this end, the State shall implement a parent education development service program designed to enhance and strengthen the role of parents and parent substitutes as the primary educators and caregivers of their children, and create an atmosphere conducive to the children's physical, moral, and intellectual development.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act:

- a. Child refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age or a person 18 years or over but is unable to fully take care or protect oneself from abuse, neglect, cruelty,

exploitation, or discrimination because of physical or psycho-social disability or condition;

- b. Parent substitutes refer to the guardians other than the biological parents who have custody over a child and are primarily responsible for the child's care, and its physical, moral, and intellectual development. They shall also include foster parents, legal guardians, surrogate parents, and caretakers; and
- c. Module refers to a component subject consisting of a carefully thought out and written material to be taught in a number of sessions that, together with the other modules, shall form part of the complete PEDS program

Sec. 4. Parent Effectiveness Development Service (PEDS) Program. There is hereby established in every city and municipality a PEDS program to assist parents and parent substitutes in expanding knowledge and strengthening skills in order to effectively carry out parental duties and responsibilities. These include the areas of early childhood development, behavior management of younger and older children, husband-wife relationships, prevention of child abuse, health care, and other challenges of parenting. The PEDS shall promote the conduct of parenting skills development using modules to be developed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Education (DepEd), and the Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCDC), consolidated in the form of PEDS-Manuals and taught in such number of sessions as prescribed therein. The PEDS modules may include the following dimensions:

- a. In-depth analysis of the roles of parents through the identification of strengths and weaknesses that affect the characteristics of their personhood, and clarification and alignment of family values and goals with the role of parents;
- b. Detailed understanding of the obstacles and challenges faced by parents to strengthen parenting skills;
- c. Domains of child growth and development and familiarization with the different learning avenues for children;
- d. The importance of the moral and spiritual development of children, and the development of parenting skills in fostering knowledge and appreciation about God, love of neighbor, and in deepening faith through prayer;

- e. Overview of the dynamics and characteristics of the Filipino family to help participants understand the importance of the family and how these characteristics affect the values and behaviors of children;
- f. Preventing child abuse by educating parents about children's rights and the risk factors or warnings of abuse;
- g. Parental understanding of child behavior through basic theories and factors that affect child behavior;
- h. Raising awareness on common health and nutrition needs, disaster management, internet safety, and bullying;
- i. Appreciation of practical ideas in managing households — time, financial, and stress management; and
- j. Developing community environmental management efforts to show the importance of physical environment cleanliness in creating a household.

The DSWD, DepEd, and ECCDC may expand or reduce the learning areas covered by the PEDS program as they may deem appropriate, taking into consideration the lessons learned from prior implementation of similar or analogous programs as well as the subsequent progress of the PEDS implementation pursuant to this Act.

Sec. 5. Coverage. The PEDS shall cover all parents and substitute parents of children enrolled in all public and private Child Development Centers (CDCs) as created in Republic Act No. 10410, otherwise known as the “Early Years Act (EYA) of 2013” and basic education schools.

Sec. 6. Implementation of the PEDS. The PEDS shall be implemented by the following:

- a. The respective social welfare development offices of cities and municipalities, in cooperation with the ECCDC for CDCs;
- b. The DepEd, through its division offices, in coordination with the local government units (LGUs) for parent substitutes of students enrolled in basic education; and,
- c. The DSWD and DepEd in the case of children who are not enrolled in public and private CDCs and basic education schools.

Parent effectiveness development sessions shall be conducted for the parents and substitute parents of all children enrolled in CDCs and in basic education schools at such schedule and interval to be determined by the social welfare officer, school principal, or school administrator concerned, guided by the PEDS Manuals.

The social welfare officers, school principals or school administrators shall, on an annual basis, prepare and submit to the local chief executive or the division superintendent concerned, as the case may be, a complete program and schedule of the parent effectiveness development sessions covering the child development centers and basic education schools under their respective jurisdictions.

The social welfare officers, school principals or school administrators shall, on an annual basis, prepare and submit to the local chief executive or the division superintendent concerned, as the case may be, a complete program and schedule of the parent effectiveness development sessions covering the child development centers and basic education schools under their respective jurisdictions.

Sec. 7. Capacity Building. The DSWD, the DepEd, and the ECCDC shall assist cities, municipalities, and schools in developing the required competencies of facilitators who shall be deployed to conduct parent effectiveness development sessions. For this purpose, the DSWD, DepEd, and ECCDC shall adopt schemes or strategies and draw inputs from other stakeholders to ensure that the facilitators are properly capacitated.

Sec. 8. Development and Production of PEDS Manuals. The DSWD, DepEd, and ECCDC shall, within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act, develop and produce the PEDS Manuals to be utilized by the facilitators in conducting the parent effectiveness development sessions.

Sec. 9. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budgets of concerned national government agencies in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGUs shall provide the necessary funds for the implementation of PEDS in their annual budgets.

Sec. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with DepEd, ECCDC, and Department of the Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.* If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,