



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4447

Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In his Fourth State of the Nation Address on July 28, 2025, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. underscored the serious, ongoing challenges confronting Filipino children and youth. These include widening learning gaps, rising school dropout rates, and persistent child labor, especially in underserved and remote communities.

To address these issues, the President reaffirmed education as a national priority. He committed to building 18,000 new classrooms before the end of his term. He also pledged to implement the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program nationwide. This program aims to enhance literacy, numeracy, and academic performance for students who struggle academically. He further highlighted the increased support for Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), especially for children from low-income families in areas such as the First District of Zamboanga City.

The Philippine Constitution affirms every citizen's right to quality basic education. It guarantees free and compulsory elementary education, as well as free secondary education. The goal of basic education is to empower Filipino learners with knowledge, skills, and values. This prepares them to be self-reliant, productive, and responsible members of society. The government also encourages and supports community efforts that improve the quality of education and access for children, out-of-school youth, and adult learners.

Despite the dedication of educators and stakeholders, many Filipino learners continue to face barriers to accessing basic, essential educational services. Persistent classroom shortages, limited resources, and inadequate access to technology hinder learning, especially in early education. Many barangays lack fully operational day care centers, which limits young children's opportunities to develop foundational skills for lifelong learning.

Republic Act No. 6972, also called the “Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act,” was enacted in 1990. It mandates the establishment of day care centers in every barangay. More than three decades later, many barangays still lack functional centers. Those that exist often suffer from limited funding, untrained personnel, and inadequate facilities. As a result, they often fail to achieve their intended purpose.

This legislative measure seeks to amend and strengthen R.A. No. 6972 by mandating the establishment of at least one fully functional day care center in every barangay, between the

national and local governments, to ensure sufficient funding, qualified personnel, and long-term sustainability of these centers and integrating day care services into the national Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) framework and aligning them with programs like ARAL, a monitoring, evaluation, and accountability system to track progress and ensure effective implementation at the local level.

By strengthening the role of barangays in early childhood education, this bill aims to reduce educational disparities and enhance community involvement. It aims to establish a solid foundation for lifelong learning and national development.

In response to the President's call and the urgent needs of our youngest learners, the passage of this measure is strongly recommended. This is a timely and concrete step to protect our children and ensure they receive an inclusive, equitable, and transformative basic education.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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AN ACT

**STRENGTHENING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6972 TO ENSURE THE ESTABLISHMENT,
REHABILITATION, AND CONTINUOUS OPERATION OF A DAY CARE CENTER IN
EVERY BARANGAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “Barangay Day Care
Strengthening Act.”

SECTION 2. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 6972 (Barangay-Level Total Development
and Protection of Children Act), is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3. - A. ~~Program Framework~~ **MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT AND
OPERATION OF DAY CARE CENTERS.** — THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED,
OPERATED, AND MAINTAINED AT LEAST ONE FULLY FUNCTIONAL DAY CARE
CENTER IN EVERY BARANGAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THESE CENTERS
SHALL IMPLEMENT THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION OF
CHILDREN PROGRAM, COVERING HEALTH, NUTRITION, EARLY EDUCATION,
PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD)
SHALL SUPERVISE AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, WHILE THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) SHALL
ENSURE COMPLIANCE BY BARANGAY OFFICIALS.

THE DSWD, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
(DEPED), SHALL INTEGRATE THE BARANGAY DAY CARE SYSTEM INTO THE
BROADER EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD)
FRAMEWORK AND THE ARAL PROGRAM, ENSURING CONTINUITY OF
LEARNING, LEARNER PROGRESSION, AND ACADEMIC RECOVERY SUPPORT.

SECTION 3-B. *Program Framework.* - Xxx

SECTION 3. A new section shall be added after Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6972 (Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act) to read as follows:

SECTION 5. MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY. - THE DSWD AND DILG SHALL ESTABLISH A NATIONAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION MECHANISM TO ASSESS THE COMPLIANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS) WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

EACH BARANGAY SHALL SUBMIT ANNUAL STATUS REPORTS ON THE PHYSICAL CONDITION, STAFFING, AND PROGRAM DELIVERY OF ITS DAY CARE CENTER TO THE DILG, WHICH SHALL PREPARE AND TRANSMIT A CONSOLIDATED NATIONAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

BARANGAY OFFICIALS WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT WITHOUT JUSTIFIABLE CAUSE SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS, AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY EXISTING LAWS AND DILG REGULATIONS.

SECTION 4. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 6972 (Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act) shall be renumbered as Section 6, Section 6 shall be renumbered as Section 7, Section 7 shall be renumbered as Section 8, and Section 8 shall be renumbered as Section 9.

SECTION 5. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 6972 (Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act), is hereby amended to read as follows:

~~**SEC. 6-7. Funds for the Center, the Program and Day Care Workers. - (a) The funds for the establishment, REHABILITATION, CONTINUOUS**~~ maintenance and operation of barangay day care centers shall be ~~appropriated from the national budget and shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as part of the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development~~ **INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs). A MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF THE BARANGAY'S INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT (IRA) SHALL BE EARMARKED FOR THE OPERATION, IMPROVEMENT, AND STAFFING OF DAY CARE SERVICES.**

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SHALL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CAPITAL OUTLAY AND PERSONNEL SUPPORT, ESPECIALLY FOR BARANGAYS IN GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED, DISADVANTAGED, AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS (GIDAS).

(B) THE DSWD, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DILG AND THE ECCD COUNCIL, SHALL IDENTIFY NON-OPERATIONAL, UNDERPERFORMING, OR SUBSTANDARD DAY CARE CENTERS AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES, PROVISION OF LEARNING MATERIALS, CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR STAFF, AND MODERNIZATION OF FACILITIES. PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO CENTERS IN AREAS WITH HIGH CHILD VULNERABILITY INDICES.

~~(b)~~ **(C) The province, city or municipality concerned shall provide financial assistance for the establishment of every barangay day care center within their respective locality.**

1 **SECTION 6.** A new section shall be added after Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6972
2 (Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act) to read as follows:

3 ~~(c)~~ **(D)** Barangay day care workers in accredited day care centers shall receive a monthly
4 allowance of not less than ~~Five hundred~~ **THREE THOUSAND** pesos ~~(P500.00)~~ **(P3000.00)** to
5 be charged to the annual appropriations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

6 ~~(d)~~ **(E)** In order to carry out the provisions of this Act, the amount needed for the program and
7 day care workers shall be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act of the year following
8 its enactment into law.

9 ~~(e)~~ **(F)** A portion of health programs available to the Philippines under official aid or official
10 debt arrangements from foreign countries, the amount to be determined by the Office of the
11 President, shall be extended in support of the day care centers.

12 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is
13 held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

14 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations
15 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

16 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
17 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

18 *Approved,*