

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 5086



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR
TEACHERS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the role of education in nation-building and the vital role that educators play. Article XIV, Section 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall “establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.”

Teaching for children with disability demands specialized skills that go beyond those typically required in regular classroom settings. It is crucial that, before teachers are given the responsibility to teach children with special needs, they are equipped with the necessary skills as educators to attend not only to their educational needs but also to their emotional, social, and physical development.

The quality of education that children with special needs get will determine the quality of their overall adult life. Thus, major efforts should be undertaken to give our teachers adequate training to ensure quality education and to properly address the needs of children with disability.

When we provide teachers of children with disability with adequate training and support, we provide hope to children and their families and contribute to making society a more inclusive one. This measure hopes to deliver quality and inclusive education while promoting equal access and opportunities for all.

This bill seeks to establish a comprehensive training program for teachers of children with disability. The special program curriculum shall include special courses on child psychology, teach the substance and teaching skills associated with handling of children with disability, develop special materials and methods, conduct pilot and demonstration projects, and involve participation of experts in child psychology in the provision of special activities designed to enhance the teaching skills of teachers of children with disability.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL "PM" D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 "*Teachers of Children with Disability Enhancement Act.*"

SECTION 2. *Special Program for Teachers of Children with Disability.* - There shall be established a comprehensive training program for teachers of children with disability. The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall prescribe the special program curriculum to be offered in state universities offering training programs. The special program curriculum shall include special courses on child psychology, teach the substance and teaching skills associated with handling of children with disability, develop special materials and methods, conduct pilot and demonstration projects, and involve participation of experts in child psychology in the provision of special activities designed to enhance the teaching skills of teachers of children with disability.

SECTION 3. *Awarding of Grants.* - The Secretary of Education is authorized to award grants in accordance with this Act to carry out activities and programs designed to increase the preparedness of mainstream classroom teachers for the preparation of children with disability in such classrooms through training programs.

Funds provided pursuant to this Act shall be used to award grants to state universities which shall be required to put up special training programs for teachers. The special programs shall consist of modules designed to increase awareness of teachers of children with disability on the special nature of such children, with emphasis on their peculiar needs to equip them with strategies on how to reach out to these children.

SECTION 4. *Application Required.* - Each entity desiring a grant under this Act shall submit a formal application to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

SECTION 5. *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DepEd shall, in consultation with CHed and other relevant stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations needed to properly implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Non-Impairment Clause.* - Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 9. *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 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,