

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6701



Introduced by **Rep. BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our schoolchildren are exposed to the marvels of modern technology at such a young age. We often see toddlers being “entertained” with the use of tablets or mobile phones to have them “behave.” We have children stuck to television sets either watching shows via streaming services or in You Tube, or playing console games or have their faces glued to their gadgets playing games or watching reels in Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok and other social media platforms.

The long-term impact caused by the frequent use of our children of the TV, laptops, desktops, tablets and mobile phones in their mental and social development are often debated upon but we often disregard the immediate physical effect which is easily detectible and that is visual impairment.

This measure seeks to amend Republic Act 11358 or the National Vision Screening Act by expanding its coverage from kindergarten only to K to 12 public school students as this concern becomes more prevalent among the older schoolchildren. As it takes a village to raise a child, this shall be our contribution.

Thus, the approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


BEVERLEY ROSE A. DIMACUHA

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**AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF REPUBLIC ACT 11358,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL VISION SCREENING ACT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

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 Expanded National Vision Screening Act"***.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - Pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. In line with this policy, the State shall endeavor to promote every Filipino's full potential through good vision by creating ways and means to address vision problems, including blindness, among children.

Towards this end, the State shall institute a program that will help screen the school children for visual problems.

Section 3. The Expanded National Vision Screening Program. -The National Vision Screening Program (NVSP) under the Department of Education (DepEd) is hereby expanded to cover the vision screening of all K-12 students in the public schools.

Section 4. Appropriations. - The amount of One Hundred Twenty Million pesos (P 120,000,000) annually shall be included in the budget of the PERI of the University of the Philippines - Manila to cover the implementation of this Act for public K-12 pupils. Moreover, the amount of One Billion Pesos (P 1,000,000,000.00) shall be included in the budget of the DepEd to construct infrastructure and facilities and hire personnel in support of the implementation of this Act and hereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the DepEd, the DOH, and the PERI shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

Section 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

Section 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, resolutions, instructions, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,