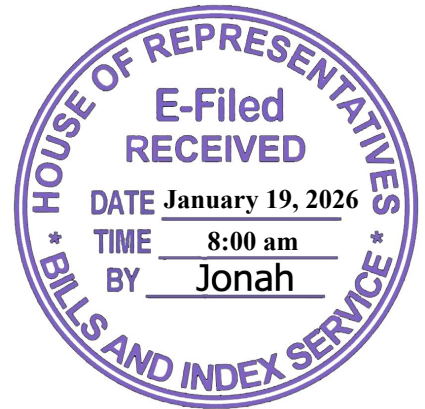




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7146

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to quality education is a constitutional right guaranteed to every Filipino child, yet deaf, mute, and blind learners remain among the most underserved and overlooked sectors in the basic education system. While the Department of Education maintains Special Education (SPED) programs nationwide, significant gaps persist—particularly in municipalities where no dedicated facilities, specialized teachers, or assistive services exist. As a result, thousands of children with sensory disabilities either receive inadequate instruction or remain entirely outside the formal school system.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a nationwide network of Municipal Special Education Centers for Deaf-Mute and Blind Children, ensuring that every municipality can provide the specialized instruction, rehabilitation support, and transition services required by learners with hearing, speech, and visual impairments. These Centers will not only deliver foundational and developmental education, but will also offer vocational preparation, independent-living training, and assistance for children who are re-entering or transitioning out of school. By doing so, the measure strengthens the mandate of the State to make education genuinely accessible to all, consistent with the Constitution and the principles of inclusive, equitable learning.

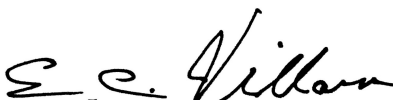
The bill authorizes the Secretary of Education to grant funding or enter into cooperative arrangements with public or private non-profit institutions for the creation and operation of these Centers. It also mandates continuing research to identify the full spectrum of developmental, educational, and transitional needs of deaf-mute and blind children, and to develop innovative instructional techniques, physical education programs, and therapeutic recreation tailored to their skill-building and community participation. To sustain the program, the bill supports the development of training courses for future teachers, supervisors, and specialists, and allows the provision of scholarships to build the country’s professional capacity in special education.

The measure likewise requires annual reporting and the creation of a national registry for deaf-mute and blind children to ensure that data-driven planning, resource allocation, and program improvements can be made over time. It also

directs national agencies to disseminate information on effective practices and approaches, enabling families, educators, and local governments to better support these children.

By establishing dedicated Municipal Special Education Centers across the country, this bill aims to eliminate long-standing inequalities in access to specialized education and support services. It ensures that sensory-impaired learners receive the tools and opportunities they need to learn, grow, and eventually transition into independent and productive adulthood. The proposed measure is a concrete, targeted response to a clear gap in our education system—one that brings the country closer to fulfilling its constitutional duty to make education accessible to every child, regardless of disability or circumstance.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7146

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF MUNICIPAL SPECIAL EDUCATION
CENTERS FOR THE DEAF-MUTE AND BLIND CHILDREN APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREOF

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
2 state to establish, maintain and support Municipal Special Education Centers
3 (hereafter "Centers") for deaf-mute and blind children in consonance with the
4 Constitutional mandate for "the State to take appropriate steps to make education
5 accessible to all."
6

7 **SEC. 2. Deaf-mute and Blind Children Defined.** - For purposes of this Act,
8 the term "deaf-mute and blind children" shall include the hearing, speech, and
9 eyesight impaired children from birth to eighteen years of age.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Creation and Purpose of Municipal Special Education Centers.** -
12 There shall be created in every municipality throughout the country Municipal
13 Education Center which shall assist the Department of Education in:
14

- 15 a) Providing deaf-mute and blind children special quality education and related
16 services as well as vocational and transitional services; and
17
18 b) Providing deaf-mute and blind children currently in school or who recently
19 left school programs and services to assist them in the transition to
20 independent living, vocational training, and competitive employment.
21

22 **SEC. 4. Authority of the Secretary of Education to Give Grants to, or Enter**
23 **into Cooperative Arrangements for the Creation of, Municipal Special**
24 **Education Centers.** - The Secretary of the Department of Education is hereby
25 authorized to give grants to, or enter into cooperative arrangement or contracts with
26 public or private non-profit agencies, institutions, or organizations for the

1 establishment or creation of, Municipal Special Education Centers for deaf-mute and
2 blind children and youth; Provided, that a grant made pursuant to this section may be
3 made only for the following or similar programs:

- 4
- 5 a) Technical assistance to Centers providing educational services to deaf-
- 6 mute and blind children;
- 7
- 8 b) Pre-service or in-service training of professionals or related services
- 9 personnel preparing to serve or serving deaf-mute and blind children;
- 10
- 11 c) Replication of successful innovative approaches to providing educational or
- 12 related services to deaf-mute and blind children at risk of being certified
- 13 deaf-mute and blind;
- 14
- 15 d) Consultative, counseling and training services for the families of deaf-mute
- 16 and blind children; and
- 17
- 18 e) Familiarization of the municipality to be served by a center with the
- 19 problems and potentialities of such children.
- 20

21 **SEC. 5. Provision for Continuing Research to Identify Special Needs of**
22 **Deaf-mute and Blind Children.** – The Special Education Division of the Department
23 of Education by itself or in association with such organizations or institutions as
24 determined by the Secretary of Education to be appropriate, shall undertake
25 continuing research to identify and design programs that meet the full range of
26 special needs of deaf-mute and blind children; Provided, that such continuing
27 research shall also be used to develop instructional techniques for use by the
28 Centers that will improve deaf-mute and blind children's acquisition of the skills
29 necessary for transition to independent living, vocational training, or competitive
30 employment; Provided, finally that such continuing research shall further be used to
31 design physical education and therapeutic recreation program for use by the Centers
32 to increase the potential of deaf-mute and blind children for community participation.

33

34 **SEC. 6. Provision for Training of Personnel.** - The Department of Education
35 shall develop special education courses for adoption and implementation by
36 accredited institutions of higher education and universities; Provided, That such
37 courses shall include subjects on special education, and adaptive physical
38 education; special education supervision and administration; and special education
39 research; Provided, finally, That the Secretary of Education may make grants, which
40 may include scholarships with necessary stipends and allowances, to institutions of
41 higher education and/or universities which already offer such or similar courses.

42

43 **SEC. 7. Annual report to the Secretary of Education; Examination of**
44 **Numbers and Services and Revision of Numbers: Annual Report to Congress;**
45 **Summary of Data.** – Centers established, created or supported under the Act as
46 well as public or non-profit private agencies or organizations which are recipients of
47 grants shall annually submit report to the Secretary of Education on:

- 48
- 49 a) The number of recipients, by age, severity, and nature of deaf-muteness
- 50 and blindness;

1
2 b) The number of professionals and family members directly served by, or
3 serving in, each Center; and
4

5 c) The types of services provided.
6

7 The Secretary of Education shall examine the number of deaf-mute and blind
8 children and youth so reported and, together with the Secretary of the Department of
9 Health, shall create and annually revise a Deaf-Mute and Blind Children National
10 Registry.
11

12 The Secretary of Education shall summarize the data for inclusion in its annual
13 report to the Congress.
14

15 **SEC. 8. Dissemination of Materials and Information Concerning Working**
16 **Practices with Deaf-mute and Blind Children.** - The Secretary of Education, in
17 collaboration with the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of the Department of
18 Labor and Employment, shall disseminate materials and information concerning
19 effective practices in working with, training, and educating deaf-mute and blind
20 children.
21
22

23 **SEC. 9. Implementing Guidelines for the Establishment of Municipal**
24 **Education Centers.** - The Department of Education, in collaboration with the
25 Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, and the Department of
26 Public Works and Highways, shall promulgate and issue the necessary implementing
27 guidelines for the creation and operation of Municipal Special Education Centers
28 within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act.
29

30 **SEC. 10. Fund for the Establishment and Initial Operation of the Centers.** -
31 Such sums as may be necessary are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the
32 National Treasury. Thereafter, the sums necessary for the continuous operation of
33 the Centers shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Department of
34 Education.
35

36 **SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is
37 declared unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provision not affected thereby
38 shall remain in force and effect.
39

40 **SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
41 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the
42 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

43 **SEC. 13. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
44 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
45

46 *Approved,*