

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Office of the Secretary

*19 JUL 24 A11 :50

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

S. No. 740

Introduced by SEN. SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM OF EDUCATION FOR
ADULTS, OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH, MEMBERS OF CULTURAL MINORITIES,
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education has consistently been one of the focal agenda of the Philippine government from the past administrations to the present, believing that in strengthening the role of education, national development and global competitiveness will be accelerated. Despite the concerted effort, UNESCO reports that the Philippines is still lagging behind their target in its initiative of Education For All (EFA), a goal which it has set in its commitment to achieve the 2015 Millennium Development Goal.

This bill envisions to promote non-formal education in the most convenient way. Its vision is to bring the ALS Program to every barangay . . . thereby "*bringing education where the learners are.*" A transcript of its presentation goes on to describe the program as "*an enabling factor, releasing people's capacities, rather than giving deprived individuals what they do not have.*" Although the concept is not altogether new, this legislation seeks to institutionalize the program and the support for national government funding in its integration into the system.

Section 2(4), Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that: *"The State shall encourage non-formal, informal and, indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs."*

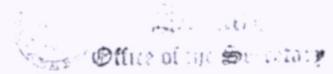
Hence, we seek the immediate passage of this bill.



SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN

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CULTURAL MINORITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, AND PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

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

1 SEC. 1. **Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as "*The Alternative*
2 *Learning System (ALS) Act*".

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to promote
4 the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate
5 steps to make such education accessible to all. The State shall likewise give the
6 highest priority to the enactment of measures that promote human development
7 and the acceleration of social progress, thereby reducing social, economic, and
8 political inequalities. Towards this end, the State shall provide the marginalized
9 sectors of society particularly the adult citizens, out-of-school youth, members of

1 cultural minorities, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities with
2 opportunities to improve their knowledge, vocational efficiency, and other skills.

3 SEC. 3. **Objectives.** - The ALS is a cost-effective learning alternative to
4 the existing formal education instruction. This Act therefore seeks to attain the
5 following objectives:

6 a) To provide adequate attention to the learning needs of the marginalized
7 sectors of our society particularly the adult citizens, out-of-school youth,
8 members of cultural minorities, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities.

9 b) To provide the opportunity of a flexible education program outside of the
10 formal school system.

11 c) To provide accessible training and education services in every barangay,
12 including those unreached, underserved and conflict-affected areas or
13 communities.

14 d) To provide a Mobile Teacher Program especially for persons with disabilities
15 taking into consideration their functional inability or difficulty to obtain
16 instructional materials and be apprised of the learning modules in the program.

17 e) To improve access to education and raise the level of literacy to contribute to
18 an individual's sustainable future.

19 SEC. 4. **Coverage.** - This Act shall cover adults, out-of-school youth,
20 members of cultural minorities, indigenous people, and persons with disabilities,
21 as defined in this Act. The ALS Program shall be institutionalized and
22 implemented in all of the barangays across the country.

23 SEC. 5. **Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act:

24 a) *Alternative Learning System (ALS)* refers to the system of education
25 which provides a parallel learning system of a viable alternative to the
26 existing formal education. It includes the non-formal, informal, and
27 indigenous learning systems as sources of knowledge and skills;

28 b) *Adults* refer to persons at least eighteen (18) years of age and above;

29 c) *Out-of-school youth* refer to children who belong to any of the
30 categories: a) at least 7 to 14 years of age who are not enrolled in school,

1 or b) at least 15 to 24 years of age, who are not enrolled in school, not
2 employed, and not a tertiary level graduate;

3 d) *Cultural minorities* refer to the Muslims in Mindanao and the hill tribes or
4 upland tribal groups in the northern part of the Philippines;

5 e) *Indigenous people* refers to a group of people or homogenous societies
6 identified by self-ascription and ascription by others, who have
7 continuously lived as organized community on communally bounded and
8 defined territory, sharing common bonds of language, customs, tradition,
9 and other distinctive cultural traits or who have, through resistance to
10 political, social and cultural inroads of colonization become historically-
11 differentiated from the majority of the Filipinos;

12 f) *Persons with disabilities* refer to those suffering from a restriction of
13 different abilities, as a result of a mental, physical, or sensory impairment,
14 to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered
15 normal for a human being. Such impairment may be permanent or
16 transitory in nature.

17 SEC. 6. **Implementation of the Program** - The Department of
18 Education (DepEd) through the Bureau of Alternative Learning System shall
19 provide the appropriate curriculum assimilating culture and gender-sensitive
20 formulations, training of teacher and coordinators, and the mechanism to
21 implement the program in every barangay in the country.

22 SEC. 7. **Allocation of the Special Education Fund.** - In order to fulfill
23 the objectives of this Act, as well as sustain its continued implementation, a
24 portion from the proceeds of the Special Education Fund under Sections 235 and
25 272 of Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the "*Local Government Code of*
26 *1991*," shall be automatically set aside by the local school board, in coordination
27 with the respective local chief executive, of every local government unit for
28 utilization by the program.

29 SEC. 8. **Tax Incentives.** - Any donation, contribution, bequest, grant, in
30 cash or services, whether local or foreign, which may be made by individuals and

1 organizations, including private entities which shall provide the appropriate
2 services, materials, and delivery support services for the promotion of the ALS
3 education program in the barangays, shall be exempt from the donor's tax and
4 the same shall be considered as an allowable deduction from the gross income in
5 the computation of the income tax of the donor in accordance with the
6 provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

7 SEC. 9. **Allocation from the Department of Education** - The DepEd
8 shall allocate an appropriate amount from its regular budget to support the ALS
9 education program under this Act.

10 SEC. 10. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90)
11 days upon the approval of this Act, the DepEd shall, in consultation with the
12 various stakeholders, formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the
13 proper implementation of this Act.

14 SEC. 11. **Separability Clause.** - If any part, section or provision of this
15 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof, not affected
16 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

17 SEC. 12. **Repealing Clause.** - All laws, acts, presidential decrees,
18 executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof,
19 inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended,
20 modified or repealed accordingly.

21 SEC. 13. **Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
22 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,