

SENATE

REC'D VI

S. B. No. 3573

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2343 and 3432, taking into consideration House Bill No. 6439)

Prepared by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture and on Finance with Senators Manny Villar, Alan Peter S. Cayetano, Edgardo J. Angara, and MAR Roxas as authors thereof

“AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT CREATING THE LITERACY COORDINATING
COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

1 SECTION 1. Republic Act No. 7165 is hereby amended as follows:
2

3 “SECTION 1. It is HEREBY DECLARED TO BE the policy of the State to give the
4 highest priority to the adoption of measures [for the total eradication of illiteracy] FOR
5 THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF LITERACY.
6

7 “TOWARD THIS END [For this purpose], it shall encourage and rationalize the
8 formulation of policies and the implementation of programs on non-formal, informal, and
9 indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school
10 study programs particularly those that respond to community needs.
11

12 THE STATE SHALL INSTITUTIONALIZE AN INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING
13 AND ADVISORY BODY TO SYNCHRONIZE AND STRENGTHEN POLICIES AND
14 EFFORTS TOWARD THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF LITERACY.
15

16 “SEC. 2. To carry out the declared national policy, there is hereby created a Literacy
17 Coordinating Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, which shall be an inter-
18 agency body administratively attached to the Department of Education[, Culture and
19 Sports].
20

21 “SEC. 3. The Council shall be composed of THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS [eight (8)
22 members as follows: the Undersecretary for Non-Formal Education of the Department
23 of Education, Culture and Sports; the Undersecretary of the Department of the Interior
24 and Local Government in charge of Local Governments; the Director of the Philippine
25 Information Agency; the President of the Philippine Normal College; a representative
26 from the National Economic and Development Authority designated by the Director-
27 General; a representative of the Committee on Education and Culture of the Senate to be
28 designated by the President of the Senate; a representative of the Committee on
29 Education and Culture of the House of Representatives to be designated by the Speaker;
30 and the representative of the non-government organizations involved in literacy

1 education who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines for a period of three
2 (3) years.]:

- 3
- 4 1) THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED), AS THE
5 CHAIRPERSON, WHO MAY DESIGNATE AN UNDERSECRETARY AS HIS/HER
6 PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE;
- 7
- 8 2) THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL
9 GOVERNMENT (DILG) OR HIS/HER DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 10
- 11 3) THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY (PNU) OR
12 HIS/HER DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 13
- 14 4) THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY (PIA)
15 OR HIS/HER DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 16
- 17 5) THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND
18 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA) OR HIS/HER DULY DESIGNATED
19 REPRESENTATIVE;
- 20
- 21 6) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS
22 AND CULTURE OR HIS/HER DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 23
- 24 7) THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON
25 BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE OR HIS/HER DULY DESIGNATED
26 REPRESENTATIVE; AND
- 27
- 28 8) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NETWORK OF NON-GOVERNMENT
29 ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) INVOLVED IN THE PROPAGATION OF LITERACY.
- 30

31 THE COUNCIL SHALL APPROVE AND CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF THE
32 NGO REPRESENTATIVE, WHO SHALL SERVE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS,
33 AND WHO MAY BE REAPPOINTED FOR ANOTHER TERM.

34
35 [The members of the Council shall annually elect a Chairman from among themselves
36 except the two (2) representatives of Congress.]

37
38 "The Council shall meet regularly [once a month] and may hold special meetings to
39 consider urgent matters upon the call of the CHAIRPERSON [Chairman] or any five (5)
40 [three] Council members.

41
42 SEC. 4. THE DULY DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LITERACY
43 COORDINATING COUNCIL SHALL BE AFFORDED EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO
44 VOTE AND PARTICIPATE IN ANY DELIBERATION DURING MEETINGS OF THE
45 COUNCIL.

46
47 LIKEWISE, THEY SHALL BE AFFORDED, WHENEVER NECESSARY,
48 REIMBURSEMENT OF ANY ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED DURING COUNCIL-
49 RELATED FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF EXISTING
50 LAW AND/OR PERTINENT RULES AND REGULATIONS.

51
52 "SEC [4] 5. The Council shall have the following POWERS AND functions:

- 53
- 54 "1) [To help] Act as the overall advisory and coordinating body, providing policy

1 and program directions for all literacy endeavors in the country;
2

3 2) ENGAGE THE SERVICES, EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES, INCLUDING BUT
4 NOT LIMITED TO, COOPERATION, ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT OF
5 APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR NON-GOVERNMENT
6 ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN LITERACY;
7

8 “[2] 3) [To] Recommend strategies on the development of a mass movement for the
9 PROMOTION OF LIFE SKILLS AND EDUCATION TOWARDS THE
10 UNIVERSALIZATION OF LITERACY [total eradication of illiteracy in the country by
11 the year 2000];
12

13 “[3] 4) [To] Formulate measures on THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF
14 THE LITERACY SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING the establishment and
15 maintenance of a national data bank and information exchange and dissemination system
16 to support literacy efforts at the national and local levels;
17

18 “[4] 5) [To] Assist in identifying and adopting successful management schemes of
19 literacy programs, and adopt measures to boost research and development work in
20 literacy, by government agencies and non-government[al] organizations involved in
21 literacy work;
22

23 “[5] 6) [To recommend ways and means of raising funds in order to support the]
24 FORMULATE POLICIES TOWARDS MAXIMIZING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR
25 SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT ON literacy programs, projects, and activities;
26

27 “[6] 7) [To recommend] PROPOSE measures on how to organize and strengthen
28 support structures for literacy at the regional, PROVINCIAL, CITY, MUNICIPAL and
29 BARANGAY [local] levels; and
30

31 “[7] 8) [To] Perform such other functions as may be necessary in furtherance of the
32 purposes of this Act.
33

34 “SEC. [5] 6. THE COUNCIL SHALL ORGANIZE A SECRETARIAT TO BE HEADED
35 BY A CHIEF OF OFFICE. THE COUNCIL SHALL DETERMINE THE SECRETARIAT’S
36 STAFFING PATTERN, QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND
37 FUNCTIONS AS WELL AS THE COMPENSATION FOR THE POSITIONS TO BE
38 CREATED SUBJECT TO THE NATIONAL COMPENSATION AND CLASSIFICATION
39 PLAN AND OTHER EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS.
40

41 “[The administrative and research staff shall be detailed from the existing personnel
42 of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports without prejudice to the designation
43 by the Council of such additional staff members as it may deem necessary for the proper
44 discharge of its functions and responsibilities.]
45

46 THE EXISTING SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL SHALL CONTINUE TO SERVE
47 IN THEIR PRESENT POSITION AND SHALL BE EXTENDED PERMANENT STATUS
48 SUBJECT TO EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS.
49

50 THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE PAYMENT OF EMPLOYEES’ SALARIES,
51 BENEFITS AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE ANNUAL
52 APPROPRIATIONS OF THE COUNCIL; *PROVIDED*, THAT SUCH OBLIGATIONS
53 SHALL NOT EXCEED FORTY PERCENTUM (40%) OF ITS TOTAL ANNUAL
54 APPROPRIATIONS.

1
2 “[SEC. 6. The Council may, in the performance of its functions, request the
3 cooperation, assistance, and support of appropriate government agencies and non-
4 governmental organizations involved in literacy.]
5

6 “SEC. 7. The sum of TWENTY [ten] million pesos (P20,000,000.00) [(P10,000,000.00)]
7 is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds in the National Treasury not
8 otherwise appropriated, to carry out the functions of the Council under this Act.
9 Thereafter, the sum needed for the operation and maintenance of the Council shall be
10 included in the annual Budget of the Department of Education [, Culture and Sports].
11

12 “The Council shall submit to Congress an annual report which shall include, among
13 other things, policy recommendations which require legislative action towards the total
14 eradication of illiteracy.”
15

16 SEC. 8. THE COUNCIL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE
17 NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, SHALL PROMULGATE THE
18 IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS FROM
19 THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.
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21 SEC. 2. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent
22 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
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24 SEC. 3. If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other parts, sections
25 or provisions thereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and in effect.
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27 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after completion of its publication in at least two (2)
28 newspapers of general circulation.
29

30 *Approved,*