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SENATE
S. No. 1105

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE TELEVISION BROADCASTING EDUCATION PROGRAM
AS AN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM FOR BASIC EDUCATION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution gives premium to the importance of education by stating in Section 1 that, "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." It further provides under Section 2 (4) 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".

As part of the Basic Education – Learning Continuity Program (BE-LCP) of the Department of Education in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DepEd TV was launched. It is an educational UHF television channel of the Department of Education (DepEd) with the assistance of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO). The episodes were also made available on other platforms such as Youtube and Facebook. According to the records of DepEd, there were 13.91 million users of DepEd TV in the school year 2020-2021.

The "*Television Alternative Learning System Act*" seeks to promote television broadcasting as means of alternative learning system in basic education in public schools including in times of crises, isolation, insurgencies, unrest, pandemics and other calamities.

This bill was introduced by Senator Emmanuel D. Pacquiao in the 18th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is highly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Television Alternative
2 Learning System Act".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 ensure the continuous delivery of "quality education for all" through the alternative
5 learning system of television broadcasting education, even in times of crises, isolation,
6 insurgencies, unrest, pandemics, and other calamities.

7 Sec. 3. *Applicability.* - This Act shall cover all public schools offering
8 elementary, junior and senior high school education.

9 This Act shall be applicable at all times especially during crises such as
10 insurgencies, unrests, pandemics, and other natural or man-made calamities that
11 would hinder the physical presence and safety of students in schools.

12 Sec. 4. *Television (TV) Broadcasting Education Program.* - The Television (TV)
13 Broadcast Education Program is an alternative method of education where students
14 can experience learning and attend classes through aerial broadcasting of a live, real
15 time class session.

1 Off-school students watching real time TV broadcast sessions should have the
2 ability for interaction with the in-school class by means of available communication
3 technologies like voice calls, text messages, chats and other media.

4 Whenever possible, a modified off-school, in-school scheme should be adapted.
5 At least twenty percent (20%) in-school classroom physical presence should be
6 required to encourage interaction amongst students and teachers for the development
7 of social and communication skills.

8 *Sec. 5. Televised Broadcast Education Program.* – The free TV broadcast
9 education program airtime shall be the same as the prescribed hours needed under
10 the regular classroom type mode of the Department of Education (DepEd) curriculum
11 to assure quality education.

12 To gain education progression credits, enrollment in person should be made in
13 a school proximate to the students' residences.

14 In cases where being physically present in school would be extremely difficult,
15 students enrolled in regular classroom schooling can use the TV broadcast as an
16 alternative learning system (ALS) upon DepEd approval.

17 *Sec. 6. Government Institution in Partnership with Television Broadcasting*
18 *Networks.* – The DepEd shall partner with TV networks, national or regional, capable
19 of covering aerial broadcasting to all areas of the country.

20 DepEd should adopt teaching and instructional policies that adhere and
21 complement the peculiarity of every region in respect to its customs, cultures, arts
22 and laws.

23 Government agencies and the National Telecommunication Commission (NTC)
24 are mandated to provide the necessary assistance such as, but not limited to, the
25 acquisition of frequencies or channels and all other requirements needed for the
26 implementation of this Act.

27 *Sec. 7. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this
28 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

29 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd shall issue the
30 implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within thirty
31 (30) days from the effectivity of this Act.

1 Sec. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
3 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

4 Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
5 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary
6 to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or
7 amended accordingly.

8 Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,