



23 JAN 24 P3:59

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

RECEIVED BY:

SENATE
S. B. No. 1754

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 6, 9, AND 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10410, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EARLY YEARS ACT OF 2013", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides 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."

In line with the Constitutional mandate, Republic Act No. 10410, or the Early Years Act of 2013, was enacted recognizing the age from zero (0) to eight (8) years as the first crucial stage of educational development and, thus, institutionalizing a National System for Early Childhood Care and Development that focuses on providing and implementing programs that provide for the basic holistic needs of young children to ensure their optimum growth and development.

The National Child Development Center (NCDC) is one of the key components of the National System for Early Childhood Care and Development and is the community-based flagship program of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council that serves as the venue for the implementation of ECCD activities, particularly the Early Learning Program and the Family Support Program. The NCDC's goals are to introduce best practices of the integrated early childhood care and development services to children aged zero (0) to four (4), to serve as a laboratory for conducting research and innovations about ECCD that will promote the continuing education and/or professionalizing of ECCD service providers, and to become the resource center for the community to enhance parenting skills and capabilities.

At the end of 2022, the ECCD Council has established 878 NCDCs nationwide representing a coverage of only 51 percent of all provinces, cities, and municipalities in the country. Such intervention is primarily financed by contributions of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to the ECCD Council as mandated by Section 11 of R.A. No. 10410, which have amounted to at least Php2.5 billion to date.

However, PAGCOR's mandatory contributions to the ECCD Council has ended last 2018 as the said provision provided that the transfers shall only be given for a period of five (5) years. The ECCD Council also reported that some of the funds for NCDCs were used for COVID-19 response in previous years.

Hence, it is clear that the extension of PAGCOR's contributions would enable the ECCD Council to fully accomplish its targets. In addition, the ECCD Council has proposed other amendments, particularly the creation of a Provincial Early Childhood Care and Development Office (PECCDO) in every province and the inclusion of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the Governing Board of the ECCD Council to strengthen local government support and coordination towards the effective delivery of ECCD programs and services.

To fully realize the rights of Filipino children to be provided with early education, health care, nutrition, and social services, we earnestly seek the swift approval of this measure.



SONNY ANGARA



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OF 2013", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 6 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10410, or the Early Years Act
2 of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 6. Expanding the ECCD System. – The National ECCD System shall
4 henceforth apply to all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays as may
5 be determined by the ECCD Council to achieve universal ECCD coverage for all
6 children from age zero (0) to four (4) years.

7 **TO ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECCD PROGRAMS AND**
8 **PROJECTS IN ALL PROVINCES, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ARE**
9 **ENCOURAGED TO CREATE A PROVINCIAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE**
10 **AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (PECCDO) TO ENSURE THE**
11 **IMPLEMENTATION OF ECCD PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF THE**
12 **PROVINCE."**

1 **SEC. 2.** Section 9 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10410, or the Early Years Act of
2 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 9. Organization of the ECCD Council. – The ECCD Council shall be
4 composed of the following.

5 (a) ECCD Governing Board. – The ECCD Governing Board shall be
6 composed of:

7 (1) Secretary of the DepED, as ex officio Chairperson;

8 (2) Executive Director of the ECCD Council, as Vice Chairperson;

9 (3) Secretary of the DSWD, as member;

10 (4) Secretary of the DOH, as member;

11 **(5) SECRETARY OF THE DILG, AS MEMBER;**

12 ~~[(5)]~~ **(6)** Executive Director of the NNC, as member;

13 ~~[(6)]~~ **(7)** President of the ULAP, as member; and

14 ~~[(7)]~~ **(8)** One (1) private individual who is an ECCD practitioner and
15 expert shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the
16 Board, as member.

17 x x x

18 (b) x x x"

19 **SEC. 3.** Section 11 of R.A. No. 10410, or the Early Years Act of 2013, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 "SEC. 11. Appropriations. – The amount needed [~~for the initial~~
22 ~~implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's~~
23 ~~appropriations of the DepEd, the DSWD, the DOH and the NNC for the purpose.~~

1 ~~Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary~~] for the continued implementation
2 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

3 In addition, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation shall
4 contribute an amount of [~~Five hundred million pesos (P500,000,000.00)~~] **ONE**
5 **BILLION PESOS (P1,000,000,000.00)** per year for **ANOTHER** five (5)
6 years from its gross income to fund the establishment of National Child
7 Development Centers and the conversion of existing Day Care Centers into
8 Child Development Centers in various LGUs upon approval of this Act. Said
9 amount shall be directly remitted in four (4) quarterly installments to a special
10 account of the ECCD Council.”

11 **SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
12 orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
13 which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
14 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

15 **SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,