



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7414

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMULO, CO (E.), AQUINO, SAULOG, ESCUDERO, PANOTES, SINGSON-MEEHAN, DIMAPORO (S.A.), DIMAPORO (M.K.), GONZALES (A.), GATO, CABREDO, UNGAB, PADIERNOS, OLASO, CO-PILAR, ZAMORA (M.C.), DALOG, DEL MAR, SALO, TAN (S.), DE VENECIA, NISAY, TALLADO, MANUEL, CHAN, MANQUIZ, DUJALI, TEODORO, RAMA, CASTRO (F.), QUIMBO, ACIDRE, BARONDA, BOLILIA, PALMA, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, PUMAREN, SUAREZ, HERRERA, ABANTE, ALONTE, ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CAMPOS, CARI, CELESTE, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, FUENTEBELLA, GO (E.C.), GONZAGA, HARESCO, LACSON, LARA, NAVA, SALIMBANGON, TIANGCO, UMALI, VARGAS-ALFONSO, VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, VIOLAGO, ZUBIRI, ABALOS, ADIONG, ADVINCULA, AMANTE, ANG, ASISTIO, ATAYDE, AUMENTADO, BASCUG, BOSITA, CHATTO, COJUANGCO (J.), CRUZ (A.), CRUZ (R.), DAGOOC, EUDELA, FORTES, FRESNEDI, GARCIA (D.), GARCIA (M.A.), GARDIOLA, GO (M.), GUTIERREZ, HERNANDEZ, KHONGHUN, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MACEDA, MAGSINO, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.I.), OUANO-DIZON, PADUANO, PANALIGAN, PANCHO, PLAZA, PLEYTO, REVILLA (R.J.), RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, TULFO (J.), UNABIA, VARGAS, VERGARA, VERZOSA, VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), YAP (C.), AGARAO, BENITEZ, BUHAIN, CORVERA, DUTERTE, ECLEO, FLORES, GOMEZ, GUINTU, KHO (R.), MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, MARIÑO, MERCADO-REVILLA, ORDANES, ORTEGA, REVILLA (B.), SALCEDA, SILVERIO, SORIANO, TOLENTINO, VELOSO-TUAZON, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), YAP (EDVIC), VILLARICA, RIVERA, CAGAS AND DALIPE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 392

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AN ACT

RENAMING THE LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL TO NATIONAL LITERACY COUNCIL, STRENGTHENING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, EXPANDING ITS MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT MECHANISMS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7165, AS AMENDED

*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 “National Literacy Council  
2 Act”.

3  
4           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Pursuant to Article II, Section 17 of the Constitution,  
5 it is the declared policy of the State to give priority to education to foster patriotism and  
6 nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.  
7 Article XIV, Section 2(4) of the Constitution likewise mandates the State to encourage non-  
8 formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and

1 out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs. To this end,  
2 the State shall give priority to the adoption of measures for the universalization of literacy.  
3

4 **SEC. 3. *Renaming of the Literacy Coordinating Council.*** – The nomenclature of the  
5 Literacy Coordinating Council, established pursuant to Republic Act No. 7165, as amended,  
6 entitled “An Act Creating the Literacy Coordinating Council, Defining Its Powers and  
7 Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes”, is hereby changed to  
8 National Literacy Council, hereinafter referred to in this Act as the “Council”.  
9

10 The Council shall serve as the lead inter-agency coordinating and advisory body to the  
11 various agencies of the national government, the local government units (LGUs), and the  
12 private sector, on matters pertaining to the formulation of policies and the adoption and  
13 implementation of measures for the universalization of literacy. The Council shall be attached  
14 solely for budgetary coordination and related purposes to the Department of Education  
15 (DepEd).  
16

17 **SEC. 4. *Composition.*** – The Council shall be composed of the following members:  
18

- 19 a) Secretary of the DepEd, as Chairperson, who may designate an undersecretary as  
20 permanent representative;
- 21
- 22 b) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), as co-  
23 Chairperson, who may designate an undersecretary as permanent representative;
- 24
- 25 c) Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority, or a duly  
26 designated permanent representative;
- 27
- 28 d) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, or  
29 a duly designated permanent representative;
- 30
- 31 e) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, or a duly designated  
32 permanent representative;
- 33
- 34 f) Director General of the Philippine Information Agency, or a duly designated  
35 permanent representative;
- 36
- 37 g) President of the Philippine Normal University, or a duly designated permanent  
38 representative;
- 39
- 40 h) National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the Philippine Statistics  
41 Authority (PSA), or a duly designated permanent representative;
- 42
- 43 i) Director of the Bureau of Alternative Education (BAE) of the DepEd;
- 44
- 45 j) a representative from the non-government organizations (NGOs), who is a citizen  
46 of the Philippines with a demonstrated personal or professional commitment and  
47 advocacy in the propagation of literacy; and

- 1 k) a representative from the associations of private educational institutions, who is a  
2 citizen of the Philippines with a demonstrated personal or professional commitment  
3 and advocacy in the propagation of literacy.  
4

5 The Council shall approve and confirm the appointment of the representative from the  
6 NGOs and the representative from the associations of private educational institutions through  
7 the adoption of a resolution. Such representatives shall serve for a term of three (3) years, and  
8 may be reappointed only once for another three (3) years on the basis of merit and performance.  
9

10 **SEC. 5. Meetings.** – The Council shall conduct its regular meetings quarterly at any  
11 agreed location within the Philippines and may hold special meetings to consider urgent matters  
12 upon the call of the chairperson or a majority of its members. A majority of all its incumbent  
13 members shall constitute a quorum, the presence of which is necessary to transact business.  
14

15 A meeting may be conducted virtually only in circumstances when meeting in person  
16 is impossible or impractical and all the Council members are able to communicate adequately  
17 during the meeting.  
18

19 Members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to  
20 appropriate honoraria for attendance in meetings as well as appropriate allowances and  
21 reimbursement of expenses related to their participation in the official activities of the Council,  
22 in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.  
23

24 The duly designated representatives to the Council shall be afforded equal opportunity  
25 to participate in the meetings of the Council, and shall be allowed to vote on any matter in the  
26 agenda of the Council. Likewise, they shall be afforded, whenever necessary, reimbursement  
27 of any actual expense incurred during Council-related functions and duties, subject to the  
28 provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.  
29

30 **SEC. 6. Powers and Functions.** – The Council shall be vested with the following  
31 powers and functions:  
32

- 33 a) Act as the lead advisory and coordinating body of the government and initiate,  
34 promote and recommend the adoption of policy and program directions for all  
35 literacy endeavors in the country;  
36  
37 b) Evaluate the literacy situation in the country, propose ways and means for  
38 expanding educational opportunities to citizens of varied socio-economic origins,  
39 and adopt modern communications and educational technology and other  
40 innovative modes of transmitting knowledge to support literacy endeavors at the  
41 national and local levels;  
42  
43 c) Support and assist the BAE on matters concerning community mapping activities  
44 for the maintenance of a centralized database for out-of-school children and adults,  
45 including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized and  
46 vulnerable members of society, who may not have availed of or completed their  
47 basic education and who may need intervention and support;  
48  
49 d) Strengthen support structures identified as literacy advocates of LGUs in the city,  
50 municipal, and barangay levels, by adopting strategies that maximize private sector

1 support for, cooperation, and involvement in literacy development programs,  
2 projects, and related activities;

- 3  
4 e) Promote and support initiatives for the conduct of research studies and similar  
5 undertakings aimed at enhancing and strengthening the crafting of relevant and  
6 timely policy recommendations, and for the effective implementation of literacy-  
7 related programs, projects, and other activities;  
8  
9 f) Organize periodic assemblies, such as literacy conferences and giving of awards to  
10 increase awareness on and help strengthen good literacy practices, and engage close  
11 partnerships with literacy advocates throughout the country;  
12  
13 g) Establish the organizational structure of the Council secretariat and determine the  
14 secretariat's staffing pattern, qualifications, duties and responsibilities, and other  
15 administrative policies including, among others, those pertaining to hiring and  
16 promotion, subject to the guidelines set forth by the Department of Budget and  
17 Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission;  
18  
19 h) Prepare an annual budget proposal and ensure that the allotted annual appropriation  
20 shall be spent in accordance with the purposes as specified in the General  
21 Appropriations Act;  
22  
23 i) Formulate necessary guidelines for business continuity, disaster recovery and  
24 backup capabilities and facilities to ensure continued operation and delivery of  
25 services in times of public health emergency, occurrence of calamity, and any other  
26 threat that requires public safety and protection; and  
27  
28 j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary in furtherance of the purposes of  
29 this Act.  
30

31 **SEC. 7. *The Secretariat.*** – The secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director,  
32 who shall assist the Council in the performance of its functions.  
33

34 The salaries of the Executive Director and other officers and employees of the Council  
35 secretariat shall be in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification  
36 System and other existing laws.  
37

38 The existing organizational structure and staffing pattern of the secretariat shall be  
39 revised so as to integrate appropriately the provisions of this Act subject to the review and  
40 approval by the DBM: *Provided*, That no officer or employee of the existing secretariat shall  
41 be removed from the service except for a valid cause, in accordance with Republic Act No.  
42 6656, entitled “An Act to Protect the Security of Tenure of Civil Service Officers and  
43 Employees in the Implementation of Government Reorganization”.  
44

45 **SEC. 8. *Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretariat.*** – In the performance of its  
46 duties and responsibilities, the Council secretariat shall:  
47

- 48 a) Provide administrative and technical support and assistance to the Council,  
49 including the preparation of policy recommendations, plans and programs, and  
50 other Council priorities and measures necessary for the advancement of basic and

1 functional literacy, and other basic capabilities of out-of-school children and adults,  
2 including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized and  
3 vulnerable members of society, who may not have availed of or completed their  
4 basic education and who may need intervention and support;

- 5  
6 b) Consult and coordinate with national government agencies, LGUs, NGOs,  
7 academic institutions, and other stakeholders on matters relating to the functions  
8 of the Council and on other matters pertaining to the propagation of literacy  
9 endeavors;
- 10  
11 c) Provide technical assistance to the implementers of the programs and projects on  
12 literacy;
- 13  
14 d) Initiate, organize, and promote the conduct of research activities, workshops,  
15 conferences, national literacy awards and the like, subject to the approval of the  
16 Council;
- 17  
18 e) Set up, maintain, and update a management information system on literacy  
19 programs and projects, policies, best practices, research studies, statistical data and  
20 other relevant information relative to the literacy situation in the country;
- 21  
22 f) Coordinate with the PSA in the conduct of the Functional Literacy, Education and  
23 Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) for purposes of providing a quantitative  
24 framework that shall serve as one of the bases in the formulation of policies and  
25 programs on the improvement of literacy and education status in the country;
- 26  
27 g) Recommend programs, projects, and other activities to be included for funding in  
28 the annual budget proposal of the Council, including support services in the  
29 preparation of the Council's annual budget proposal; and
- 30  
31 h) Perform other tasks as may be directed by the Council.

32  
33 **SEC. 9. Collaboration and Linkages with the BAE.** – The Council shall closely  
34 coordinate with the BAE concerning the management of Alternative Learning System (ALS)  
35 programs, projects and other activities, especially those that are geared towards the  
36 universalization of literacy, particularly among out-of-school children and adults, including  
37 persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized and vulnerable members  
38 of society. It shall also collaborate with the BAE on matters pertaining to literacy concerns for  
39 policy formulation, knowledge management, advocacy, social mobilization, and partnerships,  
40 among others.

41  
42 **SEC. 10. Establishment of Local Literacy Councils.** – The Council shall promote the  
43 establishment of Local Literacy Councils (LLCs) as support structures at the city, municipal,  
44 and barangay levels, which shall serve as the coordinating and advisory body at the local level  
45 on matters pertaining to the adoption and implementation of community-based measures for  
46 the propagation of literacy.

47  
48 The LLCs shall work with the LGUs in the implementation of literacy programs and  
49 endeavors at the local level, including the identification of priority literacy programs, provision

1 of technical assistance to literacy volunteer workers, program monitoring and evaluation, and  
2 coordination with government and non-government partners for program support activities.

3  
4 The LLCs shall closely coordinate, support and assist the BAE to ensure the  
5 implementation of community literacy mapping activities within the local level. The Council  
6 shall, upon consultation with the DILG and DepEd, issue the general guidelines for the  
7 establishment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of LLCs.

8  
9 An LGU may, *motu proprio* or upon the recommendation of the Council, establish its  
10 LLC within its jurisdiction in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Council.

11  
12 **SEC. 11. National Literacy Awards.** – The Council shall organize the National Literacy  
13 Awards for the purpose of recognizing, commending, and awarding deserving LGUs and  
14 NGOs for implementing outstanding literacy programs in their respective jurisdictions within  
15 the country.

16  
17 The National Literacy Awards shall be held once every two (2) years and shall  
18 encourage the participation of all literacy advocates and stakeholders nationwide. The event  
19 shall serve as the venue to exhibit, discover, share, and help strengthen good literacy practices  
20 and thus, engage partnerships with various literacy advocates and stakeholders.

21  
22 The Council shall formulate the guidelines on the conduct of the National Literacy  
23 Awards, including the criteria for the creation of a board of judges per category and the  
24 selection of winners.

25  
26 The board of judges for each category shall be chosen from a panel of experts in the  
27 field of literacy and education.

28  
29 **SEC. 12. Subsidy for Qualified Outstanding Literacy Programs; Outstanding**  
30 **Individual Awards.** – The Council shall award appropriate financial subsidies to the top  
31 awardees of the Search for Outstanding Literacy Programs for both LGU and NGO categories  
32 to fund their chosen literacy programs in their respective localities: *Provided*, That the NGO  
33 awardees are non-stock, non-profit, and established for educational purposes. The Council  
34 shall formulate and issue guidelines on the release of this financial subsidy including the  
35 amount of the award, period and frequency of release of such amounts to the awardees, and  
36 conditions or qualifications for entitlement thereto. The amounts of the financial subsidy to  
37 qualified awardees may be subject to periodic adjustments, as deemed necessary by the Council.

38  
39 The Council shall also designate awardees for the Outstanding Individual Literacy  
40 Workers and Outstanding ALS Mobile Teachers whose qualifications for entitlement to a  
41 financial award and the amount thereof shall be included in the guidelines.

42  
43 **SEC. 13. Assistance from Special Education Fund.** – Notwithstanding the provisions  
44 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as  
45 amended, the LGUs may be authorized to use a portion of the Special Education Fund to  
46 augment the funds appropriated by the LGUs for the purpose of implementing literacy-related  
47 programs and activities at the local level.

48  
49 **SEC. 14. Annual Report.** – The Council shall submit to the Senate Committee on Basic  
50 Education, Arts and Culture and the House of Representatives’ Committee on Basic Education

1 and Culture a detailed annual report which shall include its accomplishments, programs and  
2 projects, and policy recommendations and, if necessary, propose legislation for the  
3 universalization and continuing improvement of literacy rate and numeracy skills of learners.  
4

5 **SEC. 15. Appropriations.** – The initial amount for the implementation of this Act shall  
6 be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, the funding of  
7 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
8

9 **SEC. 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within one hundred twenty (120)  
10 days after the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Council shall, in consultation with  
11 the Council members and other concerned stakeholders, promulgate the rules and regulations  
12 for the effective implementation of this Act.  
13

14 **SEC. 17. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
15 unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.  
16

17 **SEC. 18. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 7165, entitled, “An Act Creating the  
18 Literacy Coordinating Council, Defining Its Powers and Functions, Appropriating Funds  
19 Therefor, and for Other Purposes,” as amended by Republic Act No. 10122, entitled, “An Act  
20 Strengthening the Literacy Coordinating Council by Amending Republic Act No. 7165,  
21 Otherwise Known as ‘An Act Creating the Literacy Coordinating Council, Defining Its Powers  
22 and Functions, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes’,” is hereby repealed.  
23

24 All other laws, decrees, orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent  
25 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.  
26

27 **SEC. 19. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
28 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,