

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 12 4:56

SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 1142

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Alternative Learning System (ALS) is neither a new concept nor a phenomenon since it is the primary goal of the Education for All Program. The ALS institutionalization is consistent with the declared policy of Republic Act 9155, otherwise known as the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001 where the State is mandated, among others, to "promote, the right of all citizens to quality basic education and to make such education accessible to all by providing all Filipino children a free compulsory education in the elementary level and free education in the high school level" with central emphasis of including "alternative learning education system for out-of-school youth and adult learners."

The advent of ALS offers a new dimension and a paradigm shift for non-formal education that will ultimately address and satisfy the legal requirements of Republic Act 9155. ALS is an independent complete learning system as it addresses the various learning styles and needs of learners. Learners are given full discretion of the kind and method of learning they wish to have, including the use of information technology. A system and mode of certification and/or accreditation will be put in place to enhance employability of those who get into it.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANNY VILLAR

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
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10 JUL 12 1830

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Senate Bill No. 1142

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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING
SYSTEM (BALS)**

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Alternative Learning System
Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is policy of the State to encourage non-formal,
informal and indigenous learning system, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-
of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs. The
State shall also provide adult citizens, the disabled and out-of-school youth with training
in civics, vocational efficiency, and other skills.

SEC. 3. Definition. - For the purpose of this Act, the terms and phrases shall
mean as follows:

a) *Alternative Learning System (ALS)* shall refer to a parallel learning system to
provide a viable alternative to the existing formal education. It encompasses both the
non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills.

b) *Distance Education* shall refer to any formal or non-formal education process
wherein the teaching method is outside the traditional means of education service
delivery but instead makes use of other methods of communication such as via mail,
video, radio correspondence or other such means of communication.

c) Bureau shall refer to the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS)

SEC. 4. Renaming of the Bureau. - The present Bureau of Non-formal Education (BNFE) under the Department of Education shall now hereby be renamed as the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS).

SEC. 5. Functions of the Bureau of Alternative Learning System. – The Bureau shall perform the following functions:

- a) Formulate the objectives and basic policies of the alternative learning system;
- b) Formulate, adopt and supplement schemes and systems that will be most effective and productive for ALS;
- c) Formulate guidelines, policies, criteria for accreditation and evaluation of establishments offering ALS;
- d) Formulate policies, guidelines, systems that will effectively administer admission of students, delivery of instruction, and graduation;
- e) Formulate policies, guidelines and systems that will efficiently transfer of students from ALS to formal education and vice-versa;
- f) Administer and supervise the education programs of institutions and schools offering ALS;
- g) Develop curricula for ALS;
- h) Coordinate and monitor the objectives, functions and activities of ALS; and
- i) Administer, supervise, monitor and coordinate all programs and activities under Distance Education

SEC. 6. Institutionalization of Distance Education - The administration of all Distance Education programs and projects is hereby transferred to the Bureau of Alternative Learning System.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Education, upon prior consultation with the appropriate government agencies, non-governmental organizations and concerned civil society, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within a period of ninety (90) days after its approval.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,