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SENATE

Senate Bill No. **1156**

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Illiteracy is a worldwide problem. It is a major hindrance to development and is directly associated with poverty, hunger and high mortality rates.

Like the primary health care strategy, primary literacy and reading approach utilizes village-level and indigenous materials and leadership. It provides a venue for both formal and non-formal settings to eradicate illiteracy. It will use the family as literacy and reading structure and the primary frontier for the young to learn to read and write. It will mobilize available resources for farmers, fisherman, workers and other groups in the work force to learn to read and write while doing their livelihood activities or to enhance their capability to improve their work tasks. It will utilize all public and private libraries as the network for resources and learning environment for those who want to read or to improve their level of literacy from a limited one to that of full or functional literacy. An eight-point program framework is proposed.


This measure seeks to set a national policy and program to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2010 through the primary literacy and reading approach. Its approval is needed and urgent if we are to have an integrated approach to fighting illiteracy and its concomitant conditions like poverty, unemployment and ignorance.


MANNY VILLAR

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Senate Bill No. 1156

INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE NATIONAL POLICY ON AND ESTABLISHING THE
PROGRAM FRAMEWORK FOR THE PRIMARY LITERACY AND READING
APPROACH, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR
AND OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "Primary Literacy and Reading Approach of the Philippines".

SECTION 2. National Policy and Program Framework.- It is hereby declared to be the national policy to achieve literacy for all children and youth from age 7 to 24 by the year 2000 and to promote literacy in order to achieve social justice by freeing our people from the harmful effects of poverty and ignorance.

It is also hereby declared to be the national policy to adopt the primary literacy and reading approach to attain literacy for all youth, build our people's capability to meet basic needs by engendering in them the ability to maximize employability potential and to accelerate the attainment of national and personal socio-economic goals.

For the attainment of the national policies herein stated, the following strategies and components of the primary literacy and reading approach shall be

integrated in major programs of government in education, livelihood generation and values formation and those for the survival and development of our children and youth:

1. Promote the ability to read with understanding and to communicate with others through a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral approach utilizing to the extent possible community-based and indigenous institutions, structures and materials;
2. Fully adopt and implement the universalization of free and/or subsidized kindergarten, elementary and secondary levels of formal education for all children and youth from the age of five (5) years until completion of a secondary education;
3. Adopt and implement the youth training team approach whereby the highest achievers of higher educational levels form part of a teaching team headed by a master teacher in order to teach pupils and students of lower grade levels;
4. Adopt and implement, where feasible, the triple session approach for elementary grades and the trimester approach for secondary and collegiate levels; and where feasible, adapt school calendars to the indigenous agricultural and cultural traditions of our people to attain a community-based educational system which enables children and youth to assist in family livelihood activities and complete elementary and secondary levels of education;
5. Provide non-entrants to and/or drop-outs from the formal school system, with accredited informal or non-formal activities which will ultimately provide them with functional literacy skills and enable them to complete a vocational course and/or attain skills for self-employment or earn a livelihood;
6. Promote literacy in order to fully exercise political rights and protect their human rights under the Constitution utilizing established barangay-level institutions, public and non-governmental and learning materials geared to the language and/or dialect spoken in the community where they live;
7. Strengthen and mobilize the network of public and private libraries and family collections of books and materials to enhance and enrich literacy and reading skills and provide a resource for a youth to child reading skills approach whereby the literate youth teach the other children and youth and reinforce literacy and reading capability of both the youth-teacher and the child/youth learner; and
8. Promote and implement such other strategies and projects which will achieve the national policies herein provided and will enhance and strengthen skills for reading and writing, for earning a livelihood, exercise of political and human rights and creativity and critical thinking, through the use of community-based resources, indigenous materials and tools and the mobilization of barangay-level leadership.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Structures and Mechanisms/Networks.*- The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall be the lead agencies for the implementation of this. Towards this end, the Secretary of DepEd shall promulgate such necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act with respect to the barangay level projects and activities and the support linkages within the local government units which will carry out the national policy and program framework of this Act.

All public and private libraries are hereby constituted into a network for the primary literacy and reading approach, subject to such rules and regulations as the Secretary of DepEd shall promulgate.

SECTION 4. *Funding.*- There is hereby authorized to be appropriated the amount of Twenty Million Pesos (p20,000,000.00) for the initial year of operation of this Act. Thereafter, such amounts are necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual appropriations of DepEd and the DILG.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.*- This Act shall take effect upon its approval and completion of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,