

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

S.B. 1201

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Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 1 provides that:

"Section 1. That 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."

As our nation progresses further into globalization, we have continuously been challenged to improve our skills. Our students, instead of rising to the challenge, seem to be left behind, as evidenced by the poor national achievement test scores. As we take on the great information superhighway, or the Internet we need to develop not only our skill to read, but also our skill to write in order to better communicate with the rest of the world.

Good writing skills are essential to employment, both locally and internationally. Furthermore, it is also important in the performance of civic duty and participation in the national development.

The Department of Education, for all their effort, at times has struggled to increase the quality of education due to lack of personnel and expertise. However, the Philippines have been blessed with numerous non-profit organizations that aim to develop the writing skills of our youth.

This bill seeks to encourage the cooperation between the government and the private sector in developing a program that will develop the writing skills of the youth.


MANNY VILLAR

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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SENATE

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**AN ACT
TO CREATE A NATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "National Writing Program Act of 2010."

SEC. 2. Purposes. - This Act aims -

- A. To support and promote the expansion of a network of sites so that teachers in every region of the country will have access to a national writing program;
- B. To ensure the consistent high quality of the sites through ongoing review, evaluation, and technical assistance;
- C. To support and promote the establishment of programs to disseminate effective practices and research findings about the teaching of writing; and
- D. To coordinate activities assisted under this subpart with activities assisted under this Act.

SEC. 3. Authorization. - The Secretary of Education, hereafter referred to as "Secretary," is authorized to award a grant to a nonprofit educational organization that has as its primary purpose the improvement of the quality of student writing and learning hereafter referred to as the "Grantee," to improve the teaching of writing and the use of writing as a part of the learning process in our country's classrooms.

SEC. 4. Grant Requirements. - The grant shall provide that—

- A. The Grantee will enter into contracts with institutions of higher education or other nonprofit educational providers, hereafter in this section referred to as "Contractors," under which the contractors will agree to establish, operate, and provide the non-government share of the cost of teacher training programs in effective approaches and processes for the teaching of writing;
- B. Funds made available by the Secretary to the Grantee pursuant to any contract entered into under this section will be used to pay the government

share of the cost of establishing and operating teacher training programs as provided in this Act; and

- C. The Grantee will meet such other conditions and standards as the Secretary determines to be necessary to assure compliance with the provisions of this Act and will provide such technical assistance as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Teacher Training Program.* – The teacher training programs described in the previous section shall:

- A. Be conducted during the school year and during the summer months;
- B. Train teachers who teach from grades kindergarten through college;
- C. Select teachers to become members of a writing project teacher network whose members will conduct writing workshops for other teachers in the area served by each writing project site; and
- D. Encourage teachers from all disciplines to participate in such teacher training programs.

SEC. 6. *Government Share.* – Except as provided in paragraph A or B, the term “government share” means 50 percent of such costs to the contractor.

- A. **WAIVER** – The Secretary may waive the provisions of this section on a case-by-case basis if the National Advisory Board described in Section 7 determines, on the basis of financial need; that such waiver is necessary.
- B. **MAXIMUM** – The National Advisory Board shall determine the maximum amount of the government share of the costs of teacher training programs conducted pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 7. *National Advisory Board.* – The National Writing Project shall establish and operate a National Advisory Board.

- A. **COMPOSITION** – The National Advisory Board shall consist of –
 - 1. national educational leaders;
 - 2. leaders in the field of writing; and
 - 3. such other individuals as the Grantee deems necessary
- B. **DUTIES** – The National Advisory Board established pursuant to this section shall –
 - 1. advise the Grantee on national issues related to student writing and the teaching of writing;
 - 2. review the activities and programs of the Grantee; and
 - 3. support the continued development of the Grantee.

SEC. 8. *Evaluation.* – The Secretary shall conduct an independent evaluation by grant or contract of the teacher training programs administered pursuant to this subpart. Such evaluation shall specify the amount of funds expended by the Grantee and each

contractor receiving assistance under this section for administrative costs. The results of such evaluation shall be made available to the appropriate committees of Congress.

SEC. 9. *Application Review.* –

A. REVIEW BOARD – The Grantee shall establish and operate a National Review Board that shall consist of –

1. leaders in the field of research in writing; and
2. such other individuals as the Grantee determines necessary.

B. The National Review Board shall –

1. review all applicants for assistance under this subsection; and
2. recommend applications for assistance under this subsection for funding by the Grantee.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,