

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10672

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMULO, GATCHALIAN, TAMBUNTING, YAP (E.), GO (M.), ESCUDERO, GARIN (S.), YU, CARI, TEJADA, DIMAPORO (A.), ABUEG-ZALDIVAR, CABREDO, CASTRO (F.L.), SAULOG, LUSOTAN, NIETO, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, CUARESMA, UMALI (M.V.), CASTELO, PANOTES, VERGARA, ELAGO, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, QUIMBO, BAÑAS-NOGRALES, DALIPE, ABANTE, ATIENZA, RODRIGUEZ, SAVELLANO, ZARATE, ERMITA-BUHAIN, DAZA, FARIÑAS I (R.C.), GO (E.C.), HARESCO, LIMKAICHONG, MATUGAS, SAGARBARRIA, VIOLAGO, ABUNDA, BARBA, BASCUG, BENITEZ, BORDADO, CO (A.N.), DUJALI, ESPINA, MACEDA, ONG (J.), ORTEGA, TAN (A.S.), VILLANUEVA (N.), AGLIPAY, ARROYO, CABOCHAN, ERICE, GAITE, LOYOLA, ORDANES, TUTOR, VILLARICA AND DE VENECIA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1408

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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) likewise mandates the State to encourage non-formal, informal, and  
8 indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study  
9 programs particularly those that respond to community needs.

10  
11           To this end, the State shall give priority to the adoption of measures for the  
12 universalization of literacy.

13  
14           **SEC. 3. *Renaming of the Literacy Coordinating Council.*** – The nomenclature of the  
15 Literacy Coordinating Council, established pursuant to Republic Act No. 7165, as amended, is  
16 hereby changed to National Literacy Council, hereinafter referred to in this Act as the  
17 “Council”.

1 The Council shall serve as the lead inter-agency coordinating and advisory body to the  
2 various agencies of the national government, the local government units (LGUs), and the  
3 private sector, on matters pertaining to the formulation of policies and the adoption and  
4 implementation of measures for the universalization of literacy.

5  
6 The Council shall be attached solely for budgetary coordination and related purposes  
7 to the Department of Education (DepEd).

8  
9 **SEC. 4. *Composition.*** – The Council shall be composed of the following members:

- 10  
11 a) Secretary of the DepEd, as Chairperson, who may designate an undersecretary as  
12 permanent representative;  
13  
14 b) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), as co-  
15 Chairperson, who may designate an undersecretary as permanent representative;  
16  
17 c) Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority, or a duly  
18 designated permanent representative;  
19  
20 d) Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, or  
21 a duly designated permanent representative;  
22  
23 e) Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, or a duly designated  
24 permanent representative;  
25  
26 f) Director General of the Philippine Information Agency, or a duly designated  
27 permanent representative;  
28  
29 g) President of the Philippine Normal University, or a duly designated permanent  
30 representative;  
31  
32 h) National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of the Philippine Statistics  
33 Authority (PSA), or a duly designated permanent representative;  
34  
35 i) Director of the DepEd’s Bureau of Alternative Education (BAE);  
36  
37 j) a representative from the non-government organizations (NGOs), who is a citizen  
38 of the Philippines with a demonstrated personal or professional commitment and  
39 advocacy in the propagation of literacy; and  
40  
41 k) a representative from the associations of private educational institutions, who is a  
42 citizen of the Philippines with a demonstrated personal or professional commitment  
43 and advocacy in the propagation of literacy.  
44

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

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

6           A meeting may be conducted virtually only in circumstances when meeting in person  
7 is impossible or impractical and when all the Council members are able to communicate  
8 adequately during the meeting.  
9

10          Members of the Council shall serve without compensation, but shall be entitled to  
11 appropriate honoraria for attendance in meetings as well as appropriate allowances and  
12 reimbursement of expenses related to their participation in the official activities of the Council,  
13 in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.  
14

15          The duly designated representatives to the Council shall be afforded equal opportunity  
16 to participate in the meetings of the Council, and shall be allowed to vote on any matter in the  
17 agenda of the Council. Likewise, they shall be afforded, whenever necessary, reimbursement  
18 of any actual expense incurred during Council-related functions and duties, subject to the  
19 provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations.  
20

21          **SEC. 6. Powers and Functions.** – The Council shall be vested with the following  
22 powers and functions:  
23

- 24           a) Act as the lead advisory and coordinating body of the government and initiate,  
25           promote and recommend the adoption of policy and program directions for all  
26           literacy endeavors in the country;  
27
- 28           b) Evaluate the literacy situation in the country, propose ways and means for  
29           expanding educational opportunities to citizens of varied socio-economic origins,  
30           and adopt modern communications and educational technology and other  
31           innovative modes of transmitting knowledge to support literacy endeavors at the  
32           national and local levels;  
33
- 34           c) Support and assist the BAE on matters concerning community mapping activities  
35           for the maintenance of a centralized database for out-of-school children and adults,  
36           including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized and  
37           vulnerable members of society, who may not have availed of or completed their  
38           basic education and who may need intervention and support;  
39
- 40           d) Strengthen support structures identified as literacy advocates of LGUs in the city,  
41           municipal, and barangay levels, by adopting strategies that maximize private sector  
42           support for, cooperation, and involvement in literacy development programs,  
43           projects, and related activities;  
44
- 45           e) Promote and support initiatives for the conduct of research studies and similar  
46           undertakings aimed at enhancing and strengthening the crafting of relevant and  
47           timely policy recommendations, and for the effective implementation of literacy-  
48           related programs, projects, and other activities;

- 1 f) Organize periodic assemblies, such as literacy conferences and giving of awards to  
2 increase awareness on and help strengthen good literacy practices, and engage close  
3 partnerships with literacy advocates throughout the country;  
4
- 5 g) Establish the organizational structure of the Council secretariat and determine the  
6 secretariat's staffing pattern, qualifications, duties and responsibilities, and other  
7 administrative policies including, among others, those pertaining to hiring and  
8 promotion, subject to the guidelines set forth by the Department of Budget and  
9 Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission;  
10
- 11 h) Prepare an annual budget proposal and ensure that the allotted annual appropriation  
12 shall be spent in accordance with the purposes as specified in the General  
13 Appropriations Act;  
14
- 15 i) Formulate necessary guidelines for business continuity, disaster recovery and  
16 backup capabilities and facilities to ensure continued operation and delivery of  
17 services, including the conduct of meetings, workshops and conferences, and  
18 National Literacy Awards in times of public health emergency, occurrence of  
19 calamity and any other threat that requires public safety and protection; and  
20
- 21 j) Perform such other functions as may be necessary in furtherance of the purposes of  
22 this Act.  
23

24 **SEC. 7. *The Secretariat.*** – The secretariat shall be headed by an Executive Director,  
25 who shall assist the Council in the performance of its functions.  
26

27 The salaries of the Executive Director and other officers and employees of the Council  
28 secretariat shall be in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification  
29 System and other existing laws.  
30

31 The existing organizational structure and staffing pattern of the secretariat shall be  
32 revised so as to integrate appropriately the provisions of this Act subject to the evaluation and  
33 review by the DBM: *Provided*, That no officer or employee of the existing secretariat shall be  
34 removed from the service except for a valid cause, in accordance with Republic Act No. 6656,  
35 or the “Government Reorganization Law”.  
36

37 **SEC. 8. *Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretariat.*** – In the performance of its  
38 duties and responsibilities, the Council secretariat shall:  
39

- 40 a) Provide administrative and technical support and assistance to the Council,  
41 including the preparation of policy recommendations, plans and programs, and  
42 other Council priorities and measures necessary for the advancement of basic and  
43 functional literacy, and other basic capabilities of out-of-school children and adults,  
44 including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized and  
45 vulnerable members of society, who may not have availed of or completed their  
46 basic education and who may need intervention and support;  
47
- 48 b) Consult and coordinate with national government agencies, LGUs, NGOs,  
49 academic institutions, and other stakeholders on matters relating to the functions

1 of the Council and on other matters pertaining to the propagation of literacy  
2 endeavors;

- 3  
4 c) Provide technical assistance to the implementers of the programs and projects on  
5 literacy;
- 6  
7 d) Initiate, organize, and promote the conduct of research activities, workshops,  
8 conferences, national literacy awards and the like, subject to the approval of the  
9 Council;
- 10  
11 e) Set up, maintain, and update a management information system on literacy  
12 programs and projects, policies, best practices, research studies, statistical data and  
13 other relevant information relative to the literacy situation in the country;
- 14  
15 f) Coordinate with the PSA in the conduct of the functional literacy education and  
16 mass media survey (FLEMMS) for purposes of providing a quantitative framework  
17 that shall serve as one of the bases in the formulation of policies and programs on  
18 the improvement of literacy and education status in the country;
- 19  
20 g) Recommend programs, projects, and other activities to be included for funding in  
21 the annual budget proposal of the Council, including support services in the  
22 preparation of the Council's annual budget proposal; and
- 23  
24 h) Perform other tasks as may be directed by the Council.

25  
26 **SEC. 9. *Collaboration and Linkages with the BAE.*** – The Council shall closely  
27 coordinate with the BAE concerning the management of ALS programs, projects and other  
28 activities, especially those that are geared towards the universalization of literacy, particularly  
29 among out-of-school children and adults, including persons with disabilities, indigenous  
30 peoples, and other marginalized and vulnerable members of society. It shall also collaborate  
31 with the BAE on matters pertaining to literacy concerns for policy formulation, knowledge  
32 management, advocacy, social mobilization, and partnerships, among others.

33  
34 **SEC. 10. *Establishment of Local Literacy Councils.*** – The Council shall promote the  
35 establishment of Local Literacy Councils (LLCs) as support structures at the city, municipal,  
36 and barangay levels, which shall serve as the coordinating and advisory body at the local level  
37 on matters pertaining to the adoption and implementation of community-based measures for  
38 the propagation of literacy.

39  
40 The LLCs shall work with the LGUs in the implementation of literacy programs and  
41 endeavors at the local level, including the identification of priority literacy programs, provision  
42 of technical assistance to literacy volunteer workers, program monitoring and evaluation, and  
43 coordination with government and non-government partners for program support activities.

44  
45 The LLCs shall closely coordinate, support and assist the BAE to ensure the  
46 implementation of community literacy mapping activities within the local level.

47  
48 The Council shall, upon consultation with the DILG and DepEd, issue the general  
49 guidelines for the establishment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of LLCs. An LGU

1 may, *motu proprio* or upon the recommendation of the Council, establish its LLC within its  
2 jurisdiction in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Council.

3  
4 **SEC. 11. *National Literacy Awards.*** – The Council shall organize the National Literacy  
5 Awards for the purpose of recognizing, commending, and awarding deserving LGUs and  
6 NGOs for implementing outstanding literacy programs in their respective jurisdictions within  
7 the country.

8  
9 The National Literacy Awards shall be held once every two (2) years and shall  
10 encourage the participation of all literacy advocates and stakeholders nationwide. The event  
11 shall serve as the venue to exhibit, discover, share, and help strengthen good literacy practices  
12 and thus, engage partnerships with various literacy advocates and stakeholders.

13  
14 The Council shall formulate the guidelines on the conduct of the National Literacy  
15 Awards, including the criteria for the creation of a board of judges per category and the  
16 selection of winners. The board of judges for each category shall be chosen from a panel of  
17 experts in the field of literacy and education.

18  
19 **SEC. 12. *Subsidy for Qualified Outstanding Literacy Programs; Outstanding***  
20 ***Individual Awards.*** – The Council shall award appropriate financial subsidies to the top  
21 awardees of the Search for Outstanding Literacy Programs for both LGU and NGO categories  
22 to fund their chosen literacy programs in their respective localities: *Provided, That* the NGO  
23 awardees are non-stock, non-profit, and established for educational purposes. The Council  
24 shall formulate and issue guidelines on the release of this financial subsidy including the  
25 amount of the award, period and frequency of release of such amounts to the awardees, and  
26 conditions or qualifications for entitlement thereto. The amounts of the financial subsidy to  
27 qualified awardees may be subject to periodic adjustments, as deemed necessary by the Council.

28  
29 The Council shall also designate awardees for the Outstanding Individual Literacy  
30 Workers and Outstanding ALS Mobile Teachers whose qualifications for entitlement to a  
31 financial award and the amount thereof shall be included in the guidelines.

32  
33 **SEC. 13. *Assistance from Special Education Fund.*** – Notwithstanding the provisions  
34 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as  
35 amended, the LGUs shall be authorized to use a portion of the Special Education Fund to  
36 augment the funds appropriated by the LGUs for the purpose of implementing literacy related  
37 programs and activities at the local level.

38  
39 **SEC. 14. *Annual Report.*** – The Council shall submit to the Philippine Senate’s  
40 Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture and to the House of Representatives’  
41 Committee on Basic Education and Culture a detailed annual report of its accomplishments  
42 which shall include its accomplishments, programs and projects, and policy recommendations  
43 and, if necessary, propose legislation for the universalization and continuing improvement of  
44 literacy rate and numeracy skills of learners.

45  
46 **SEC. 15. *Appropriations.*** – The initial amount for the implementation of this Act shall  
47 be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, the funding of  
48 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1           **SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within one hundred twenty (120)  
2 days after the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Council shall, in consultation with  
3 the Council members and other concerned stakeholders, promulgate the rules and regulations  
4 for the effective implementation of this Act.  
5

6           **SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
7 unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.  
8

9           **SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 7165, entitled, “AN ACT CREATING  
10 THE LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND  
11 FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,”  
12 as amended by Republic Act No. 10122, entitled, “AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE  
13 LITERACY COORDINATING COUNCIL BY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7165,  
14 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT CREATING THE LITERACY COORDINATING  
15 COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
16 THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’,” is hereby repealed.  
17

18           All other laws, decrees, orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent  
19 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.  
20

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

Approved,