

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



'16 JUL 19 AIO:26

SENATE

S.B. NO. 431

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

**AN ACT INTEGRATING FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN THE
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CURRICULA**

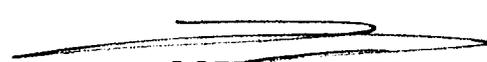
Explanatory Note

The demands of an increasingly globalized environment have impacted on the Philippine economy in unprecedented ways. There is now, more than ever, great pressure on us to adapt to the demands of transnational and multilingual institutions in order to become a globally competitive nation. One of the ways to ensure that Filipinos will gain a considerable advantage is to introduce comprehensive educational reforms in the primary and secondary levels, which may enhance Filipino competency in foreign languages. Learning foreign languages at the earliest possible time opens up a whole new dimension for children, as it increases their interest in reading and writing, and can significantly contribute to the development of their individual intelligence.

Spanish, for instance, is spoken everyday by over 45 million people in 22 countries, and 48 million others are learning the language through various institutions like the *Instituto Cervantes*. It is also the third most used language on the internet, after English and Mandarin. As the Spanish-speaking countries are large markets for both goods and services, learning the language is a good long-term investment for Filipinos.

Beyond our need to become globally competitive, we also note that the cultivation of international cooperation is aided by the learning of other languages, as it facilitates an interest in other cultures, expands our realm of ideas, and provides for common threads through which we can create a harmonious global community.

In light of the challenges thrust upon us by the changing times and our own objectives, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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

- 1 **SEC. 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "*Foreign Language Education Act.*"
2
- 3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** The State recognizes the fast growing global economy
4 and the need for Filipinos to remain competitive in the global arena that is composed of
5 different peoples, cultures and languages. It shall therefore be the policy of the State to
6 institute foreign language education in the primary and secondary school curricula,
7 with the goal of equipping Filipinos joining the workforce with sufficient aptitude and
8 skills to be more competitive and thereafter, enjoy better job opportunities in the highly
9 competitive global arena.
10
- 11 **SEC. 3. Foreign Language Education.** The Department of Education (DepEd) shall
12 integrate foreign language education into the primary and secondary school curricula,
13 covering both public and private schools. The Secretary of the DepEd shall determine
14 the specific foreign languages, start of the integration, number of hours to be devoted in
15 teaching identified foreign languages, and other necessary guidelines and policies.
16
- 17 **SEC. 4. Foreign Language Teachers.** To attend to the needs of foreign language
18 teachers in primary and secondary education, the Commission on Higher Education
19 (CHED) shall promote a field of specialization in each of the identified foreign
20 languages in higher education institutions (HEIs). CHED shall coordinate with the
21 education offices or similar offices of foreign embassies in formulating the foreign
22 language training programs and curricula for Filipino teachers.
23
- 24 Teachers and college graduates who will take up a Master's degree in the
25 corresponding foreign language shall be accredited as foreign language teachers. The
26 CHED shall also include the teaching of foreign languages as a field of study in the
27 teacher education program.
28
- 29 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** To implement the provisions of this Act, the initial sum of
30 Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be charged against the savings of the
31 Department of Education (DepEd) in its fiscal year budget. Such other amounts as may

32 be necessary for its operation shall be included under the appropriations of DepEd in
33 the annual General Appropriations Act.

34 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared
35 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby, shall
36 continue to be in full force and effect.

37

38 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** All laws, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof,
39 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

40

41 **SEC. 8. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
42 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

43

Approved,