

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



'16 JUL 19 P 6:24

SENATE

S. No. 630

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT

RECOGNIZING THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCTIVE TO ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The British School Manila (BSM), an educational institution owned and operated by the British Education, Inc., has been continuously in operation in the Philippines since its establishment in 1976. From its humble beginnings of two (2) classrooms with 36 students, it now has a sprawling campus in the Fort Bonifacio Global City with about a thousand students composed of thirty-eight (38) nationalities, including Filipinos. Its class sizes are small (16-22) and all its teachers are United Kingdom (UK) or Commonwealth trained and/or experienced. It is proud to uphold the high standard of the British education system in a school that takes full advantage of its multi-cultural setting.

Since its founding, it has been the vision of BSM to deliver the highest standard of education in the Philippines for British children and for English-speaking children of Filipinos and other nationalities. BSM is well-known worldwide for its highest quality British education, following adapted form of the English National Curriculum from Nursery to Year 9 designed to inspire learning through being both relevant and flexible. Its students are groomed and prepared for end of Key Stage in Primary, International General Certificate of Secondary Education [IGCSE]¹ at 16, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma at 18. Based on all comparative assessments, children who studied in BSM perform well above UK and international expectations.

BSM is fully accredited through the Council of International Schools (CIS)² which is considered to be the premier accreditation agency for international schools worldwide. It is also a member of the IB World School,³ Federation of British International Schools in Asia

¹ The (IGCSEs are qualifications taken in years 10 and 11 and examined at the end of Year 11. They are a UK-based examination system that is used in English and Welsh schools in the UK and British Schools overseas. The (1)GCSEs measure students' abilities in specific subjects. Generally, students at BSM will take between 11-13 examinations. Students are awarded grades from A* - G for each specific subject.

² www.cols.org

³ www.lbo.org

(FOBISIA), and International Schools Athletic Conference (ISAC). BSM has thus earned its sacrosanct niche in education not only in the Philippines but worldwide.

The Legislature has, in the past, recognized other schools in the country as educational institutions of international character as in the case of Cebu International School under Republic Act No. 9190 and Stonyhurst Southville International School of Batangas City under Republic Act No. 9493.

Other international schools created through legislative or executive fiat were the International School Manila (PD 732), Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (PD 2021), and Brent International School (PD 2022), among others.

In the case of the BSM, official government recognition has been extended by the Philippine Government through a modest document entitled "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) executed by and between the Department of Education (DepEd) and British Education, Inc. The first of such MOU was executed on May 6, 1976, the second, on May 31, 2001 and the latest, on November 23, 2011, between DepEd Secretary Armin A. Luistro, and BEI's Andrew Byrne, Chairman of its Council of Trustees.

After its more than four (4) decades of its existence, operation and service in this country, it is high time that the Philippine Government through Congress extends its formal recognition to BSM as a distinguished educational institution of international character by enacting a law to that effect.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" R. TRILLANES IV
Senator

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

1 **SECTION 1. Official Recognition.** – The British School Manila, herein referred to,
2 as the "*School*", operated by the British Education, Inc., is hereby declared and officially
3 recognized as an educational institution of international character authorized to operate
4 educational programs that primarily and principally adhere to universally accepted and
5 recognized educational policies through its international accreditations from institutions such
6 as Council of International Schools (CIS) and the International Baccalaureate Office (IBO),
7 which confer international recognition to stakeholders all over the world. The school shall be
8 subject to applicable laws, rules and regulations and other issuances issued by the
9 government and to such limitations as the Department of Education (DepEd) may impose.

10
11 **SEC. 2. Members of the School.** – The school shall be comprised of the school
12 personnel or management, students and their parents and/or guardians, whether of the
13 Philippine or foreign nationality.

14
15 **SEC. 3. Governing Body.** – The School shall be governed by its board of trustees also
16 known as the Council of Trustees, herein referred to as the "*Council*", elected in accordance
17 with the corporation code of the Philippines and its corporate charter. *Provided*, That, eighty
18 percent (80%) of its trustees must be residents of the Philippines and forty percent (40%) of
19 which must be reserved for Filipinos: *Provided, further*, That the Department of Education
20 shall determine the qualifications of the trustees.

21
22 **SEC. 4. Grant of Prerogatives.** – To enable the School to continue carrying out its
23 educational program, improve its standard of instruction and meet the special needs of its
24 school community for quality education, it shall:

- 25
26 (a) accept applicants for admission, regardless of nationality, in accordance with its own
27 eligibility standards and rules for admission and grade placement: *Provided*, That the

1 school shall not give less priority to the citizens of the Philippines, as its host country
2 by ensuring that no single alien nationality shall consist more than thirty percent
3 (30%) of the entire student population in a given school year, as stated in the records
4 of the school;

5
6 (b) be managed and administered by a Head of School, who shall possess the
7 qualifications prescribed by the Council and subject to the approval of the secretary of
8 the department of education;

9
10 (c) upon the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd):

11
12 I. Determine its own curriculum;

13
14 II. Endeavor to promote international friendship, goodwill and
15 understanding among its students as well as among members of the
16 foreign and educational community and citizens of the Philippines;

17
18 III. Establish its calendar of studies and work schedule to maximize
19 efficiency and maintain, enhance, improve, and promote the quality of
20 education or instruction it has adopted for the benefit of its students;

21
22 IV. Teach whatever language or languages it may deem proper;

23
24 V. Impose reasonable amount of fees and assessments in accordance with
25 the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Education.

26
27 (d) uphold standards of education compatible, if not superior with those obtaining in
28 similar schools of recognized international standing;

29
30 (e) engage and support the host country through meaningful and reflective service and
31 provide an atmosphere that creates deep understanding of current issues within the
32 cultural context; and

33
34 (f) employ qualified teaching and management personnel selected by the Council either
35 locally or abroad, from the Philippines or other nationalities, in accordance with the
36 qualification standards provided by the department of education: Provided, That fair
37 wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction from
38 Filipino or foreign hired shall be implemented. Such foreign personnel are exempt
39 from laws that impose nationality restrictions on control and administration of
40 educational institutions, except laws that have been or will be enacted for the
41 protection of employees: *Provided*, That such exception shall not extend to their
42 liability from income taxes.

1 **SEC. 5. *Supervision and regulation of the DepEd.*** – Notwithstanding the recognition
2 and prerogatives granted under this act, British School Manila (BSM) shall be under the
3 supervision and regulation of the DepEd and shall adhere to basic laws, and rules and
4 regulations of the DepEd governing international or foreign schools.
5

6 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days after the
7 effectivity of this act, the DepEd Secretary or his representative, school's administration,
8 representatives from the school parents and representative from private educational
9 associations in coordination with the other government agencies concerned shall issue such
10 rules as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
11

12 **SEC. 7. *Severability Clause.*** – If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act
13 is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof
14 shall remain in full force and effect.
15

16 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules or regulations, or parts
17 thereof, inconsistent with this decree are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
18

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

Approved,