

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3824**



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Introduced by **HONORABLE STRIKE B. REVILLA**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The right to education is a universally recognized right of any citizen. At all levels, access to quality education shall be guaranteed. The State shall promote non-formal, informal, indigenous and out-of-school study programs especially those that address the needs of community, and of the disabled and the handicapped.

This proposed measure seeks to provide free and suitable public education for differently-abled children. This shall be under a special education program with the goal of ensuring the survival and advancement of these children. With this proposal, we wish to make them productive partners for national development.

In this regard, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. STRIKE B. REVILLA**  
2nd District of Cavite

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FREE AND SUITABLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED**  
**CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1       **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
2 to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to  
3 make appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. It shall promote non-  
4 formal, informal, indigenous and out-of-school study programs particularly those that  
5 respond to the needs of the community, and of the disabled and the handicapped.  
6 Towards this end, the State shall provide free and suitable public education for  
7 differently-abled children under a special education program with the end in view of  
8 ensuring their survival and advancement and making them productive partners for  
9 national development.

10  
11       **SECTION 2.** It shall be the purposes of this Act to:

- 12  
13       a) Establish a special education program that shall cater to the needs of the  
14 differently-abled and the mentally and physically handicapped children.  
15       b) Provide full financial and educational assistance to differently-abled children  
16 of the country.  
17       c) Help in the development and rehabilitation of differently-abled children  
18 through special education program.

19  
20       **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms** – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms  
21 shall mean:

- 22  
23       a) A differently-abled child is one who has not yet reached the age of eighteen  
24 (18) years old;

1           b) A suitable public education refers to a course, profession, skill or program  
2           prescribed by the Department of Education to a differently-abled child taking  
3           into consideration the child's aptitude handicap and talents.  
4

5           **SECTION 4.** A special education center shall, whenever possible, be  
6           established in the provincial, city and municipal levels for this purpose. Said special  
7           education center shall, as much as possible provide for elementary levels of education  
8           with maximum opportunities for integration with non-handicapped peers.  
9

10          **SECTION 5.** The benefits that will be given to qualified differently-abled shall  
11          include tuition fees, textbook allowance, and ambulatory equipment or devices that may  
12          be necessary. Special services such as note-takers and readers for the blind, sign  
13          interpreters for the deaf and tutorial institution shall also be offered.  
14

15          **SECTION 6.** A Special Education Development Fund is hereby established with  
16          an initial capital of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) to be taken from the  
17          appropriations for the Department of Education under the current General  
18          Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for this continued  
19          operations and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.  
20

21          **SECTION 7.** The Department of the Education, in coordination with the  
22          Department of Social Welfare and Development, shall promulgate the necessary rules  
23          and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.  
24

25          **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances,  
26          ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this  
27          Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.  
28

29          **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act or  
30          part thereof is declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction,  
31          the other provisions or parts hereof not affected shall remain in full force and effect.  
32

33          **SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
34          after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general  
35          circulation.  
36

***Approved,***