

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4034




Introduced by Representative Salvador B. Belaro, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In these modern times, persons with disabilities (PWDs) especially those who have hearing and sight deficiencies already have a good chance of acquiring quality education. It is unfortunate, however, that in the Philippines much has to be desired in providing for the educational needs of the deaf and the blind. In most cases, individual families of persons with hearing and sight deficiencies are left on their own to scout for a school and raise resources so that these physically-challenged individuals can have access to quality education.

A number of talented students whose hearing and sight are impaired have actually proven themselves and have excelled academically. Roselle Rodriguez Ambubuyog, the first **visually-impaired** Filipina to become **summa cum laude** at the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), is one of the best examples. Michael Lopez and Ana Arce, both are deaf-mute who have successfully proven themselves and graduated magna cum laude at the De La Salle University- College of St. Benilde.

This Act seeks to address the need of establishing more schools for the deaf and blind to enable more PWDs to have access to quality education nationwide.


SALVADOR B. BELARO, JR.
Representative
1-Ang Edukasyon Party List

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING SCHOOLS FOR DEAF AND BLIND

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "School for the Deaf and Blind Act of 2016."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. The State shall establish means to promote equal access to quality education for persons with disabilities (PWDs) especially those who have hearing and sight impairment across the country.

SEC. 3. The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH) and the University of the Philippines - Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) are mandated to study the establishment of a National College for the Deaf and Blind. The DepEd and CHED are likewise mandated to identify regional academic centers that will be provided by the Government with the enhanced capability of offering academic degrees and training courses for the deaf and the blind.

SEC. 4. The funds necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 5. All laws, orders, issuances rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.