



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 5486**



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Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.**

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR  
TEACHERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

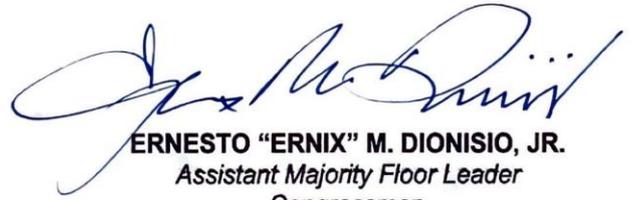
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Art. XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels to make such education accessible to all. Accessibility of education entails obtaining instruction that suits the situation of every child. However, children and youth with special needs (CYSNs) usually require a specialized form of instruction due to their situation.

Measures and programs have already been implemented to address the needs of CYSNs but access to the kind of education that they need is still unobtainable because only select institutions offer the same.

This proposed measure seeks to equip our educators with the right tools and skills to properly instruct CYSNs to provide them with the quality education they deserve. To provide our teachers with the necessary tools, a training program headed by the Department of Education, in coordination with relevant stakeholders shall be established. This training program also promotes coordination with experts that will help in crafting the curriculum for our educators.

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



**ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.**

*Assistant Majority Floor Leader*

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR**  
**TEACHERS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Teachers for Children and Youth with Special Needs (CYSNs) Training Act.*”

**SECTION 2. Definition of Children and Youth with Special Needs –** As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a.) *Children with special needs (CSNS)* refer to those persons eighteen (18) years old and below who are the mentally gifted or fast learners, and those who are disabled, impaired, and handicapped and in need of special education as well as services for rehabilitation. They differ from the average children in mental characteristics, sensory abilities, neuro-muscular or physical characteristics, social attributes, to such an extent that requires the use of modified school practices or special education services to develop them to maximum capability.
- b.) *Youth with special needs (YSNs)* refer to those persons between fifteen (15) years old to thirty (30) years old with the same characteristics are CSNS, except those mentally gifted or fast learners. *Provided, that, those persons who have mental retardation, or autism or other chronic intellectual disabilities, shall be considered a YSN regardless of age.*

**SECTION. 3. Program Authorization.** – The Secretary of the Department of Education is authorized to award grants in accordance with this Act to carry out activities and programs designed to increase the preparedness of mainstream classroom teachers for the preparation of children with disability in such classrooms through the training program.

**SECTION 4. Use of Funds.** - Funds provided pursuant to this Act shall be used to award grants to state universities that shall be required to put up special training programs for teachers.

The programs shall consist of modules designed to increase awareness of teachers of children with disability on the special nature of their students, with emphasis on their peculiar needs to allow them to formulate strategies on how to reach out to CYSNs.

**SECTION 5. Special Program Curriculum.** - The Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and relevant entities, shall prescribe the special program curriculum to be offered in state universities offering training programs. The special program curriculum shall include special courses on child psychology, teach the substance and teaching skills associated with handling of CYSNs, develop special materials and methods, conduct pilot and demonstration projects, and involve the participation of experts in child psychology in the provision of special. activities designed to enhance the teaching skills of teachers of CYSNs.

**SECTION 6. Application.** – Each entity desiring a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

**SECTION 7. Appropriations.** – There shall be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,