

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 6306



Introduced by Representative Virgilio S. Lacson

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The British School Manila (BSM), an educational institution owned and operated by the British Education, Inc., has been continuously operating 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.

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 of British education, following an adapted form of the English National Curriculum from Nursery to Year 9 designed to inspire learning, which is both relevant and flexible. Its students are groomed and prepared for end of Key Stage in Primary, International General Certificate of Secondary Education [IGCSE] at age 16, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma at age 18.

After 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.

Hence, the immediate passing of this bill is earnestly sought.


Cong. Virgilio S. Lacson

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

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

SECTION 1. Official Recognition. – The British School Manila, herein referred to as the "School", operated by the British Education, Inc., is hereby declared and officially recognized as a British international education institution authorized to operate educational programs that primarily and principally adhere to universally accepted and recognized educational policies.

SEC. 2. Governing Body. – The School shall be governed a Council of Trustees, herein referred to as the "Council", elected in accordance with its corporate character.

SEC. 3. Grant of Prerogatives. – To enable the School to continue carrying out its educational program, improve its standard of instruction and meet the needs of the foreign diplomatic and temporary resident community for quality education, it shall:

- (a) Accept applicants for admission, regardless of nationality, in accordance with its own eligibility standards and rules for admission and grade placement, the School having been established primarily for foreign diplomatic personnel and their dependents and for other temporary residents, and as such the School is covered by the exemptions provided in Section 4 (2) Article XIV, of the Constitution of the Philippines;

- (b) Be managed and administered by a Head of School, who shall possess qualifications prescribed by the Council;
- (c) Upon consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) determine its own curriculum, calendar of studies and work schedule, teach whatever language or languages it may deem proper, and determine the amount of fees and assessments which may be reasonably imposed upon its students, to maintain or conform to the School's standard of education;
- (d) Maintain standards of education compatible with those obtaining in similar schools of generally recognized international standing;
- (e) Employ its own teaching and management personnel selected by the Council either locally or abroad, from the Philippines or other nationalities, such foreign personnel being exempt from laws and regulations that impose nationality restrictions or employment, and control of administration of educational institutions, except laws that have been or will be enacted for the protection of employees: Provided, that such exception shall not be extended to their liability from income taxes.
- (f) Benefits from privileges under the law granted to non-stock, non-profit educational institutions.

SEC.4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. –The DepEd Secretary shall issue such rules as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. – If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval.

Approved.