

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 2746

EXPLANATORY NOTE

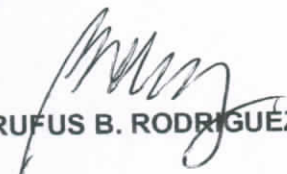
Section 1 of Article XIV (Education) of the Constitution provides, in part, that the State shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all. Likewise, the State is directed by the Constitution to "*establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society.*"

This bill seeks to create the National Education Coordinating Council in order to integrate, coordinate and interface the program and policies of the formal and non-formal educational system.

In the Philippines, the system of education is implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). These three agencies are independent bodies and supreme in their respective realm of responsibilities. As such, they have their own distinct set of policies and programs which sometimes clash with each other, thus adversely affecting the educational system in the country. Hence, there is an imperative need to coordinate the activities and functions of the three agencies to better implement the programs and policies set by the national government relative to the operations and management of the educational system.

The measure proposes to establish the National Coordinating Council which will act as the over-all advisory and coordinating body for all literacy endeavors and human resource development program of the country. It is an inter-agency body composed of representatives of the three agencies of education and various government agencies. The Council is tasked to ensure a coherent, integrated, proficient and responsive educational system in the country.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 2746

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COORDINATING COUNCIL, DEFINING
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “**National Education Coordinating Council Act**”.

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the rights of all citizens to affordable quality formal education at all levels and to relevant and efficient technical education and skills development opportunities responsive to and in accordance with Philippine development goals and priorities. For this purpose, it shall maintain a coordinating body which shall integrate, coordinate and interface the programs and policies of the formal and non-formal educational systems.

SEC. 3. **National Education Coordinating Council.** – There is hereby created a National Education Coordinating Council, hereinafter referred to as the “*Council*,” which shall integrate and coordinate the policies, plans, programs and projects in the areas of formal and non-formal education at all levels in order to establish and maintain a complete, adequate and comprehensive system of education relevant to the goals of national development.

SEC. 4. **Composition.** – The Council shall be composed of the following:

- a) The Secretary of Education, as Chairman;
- b) Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education, as Vice Chairman;
- c) Chairman of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority;
- d) Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority or a representative;
- e) Secretary of Labor and Employment or his representative;
- f) Secretary of Science and Technology or his representative; and
- g) Secretary of Trade and Industry or his representative, as members.

SEC. 5. **Duties and Functions.** – The Council shall exercise the following duties and functions:

- a) Act as the overall advisory and coordinating body providing policy and program directions for all formal and non-formal educational systems, particularly technical education and skills development program;
- b) Coordinate with the participating agencies represented in the Council in providing opportunities for the acquisition of skills necessary to enhance and ensure continuing employability, efficiency, productivity and competitiveness in the labor market;

c) Serve as a means for expanding access to educational opportunities to citizens of varied interests, demographic characteristics and socio-economic origins of status;

d) Formulate, plan, implement and coordinate the policies, plans programs and projects for the following:

- (1) Primary and secondary education
- (2) Non-formal education, vocational and technical education and skills development
- (3) Higher education

e) Formulate and coordinate the implementation of policies on matters of common interest to the various departments and agencies of the government concerned with the formal and non-formal education and make recommendations to the President in connection therewith; and

f) Perform such other functions as may be necessary in furtherance of the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 6. **Meetings.** – Regular meetings of the Council shall be held at least once a month. Special meetings may be held as often as may deemed necessary: *Provided*, That in the absence or incapacity of the members to attend any regular or special meeting of the Council, the duly designated representative of the member shall attend and be vested with the same power and authority as a regular member.

A quorum of the Council shall consist of four (4) members holding office at the time of the meeting: *Provided, however*, That the chairperson of the Council is among those present in the meeting.

SEC. 7. **Compensation.** – The member of the Council shall be entitled to per diems and honoraria as may be approved by the Council. They shall serve without service credit, benefit or pay except the approved per diems and honoraria.

SEC. 8. **Secretariat.** – The Council shall have a permanent secretariat which shall be under the supervision and control of the Chairperson of the Council. The Council shall determine the administrative personnel and research staff as it may deem necessary for the proper discharge of its functions and responsibilities. All the appointments shall be made by the Chairperson subject to existing civil service laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 9. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within thirty (30) days from the date of the effectivity of this Act, the Council shall convene to formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. **Appropriation.** – The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary to implement shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,