



S E N A T E

S. No. 2485
(In Substitution of Senate Joint Resolution No. 10)

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION, ARTS
AND CULTURE JOINT WITH THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER,
TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WITH
SENATORS ANGARA, DRILON, GATCHALIAN, POE,
VILLANUEVA, MARCOS, BINAY, ZUBIRI AND VILLAR
AS AUTHORS THEREOF

AN ACT CREATING A SECOND CONGRESSIONAL
COMMISSION ON EDUCATION TO ASSESS AND
EVALUATE THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE
EDUCATION AND RECOMMEND INNOVATIVE
AND TARGETED REFORMS IN EDUCATION,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

- 1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as
2 the “Second Congressional Commission on Education Act
3 (EDCOM II)”.

1 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared
2 the policy of the State to make education as a critical
3 component of human capital development, socio-economic
4 equality, inclusive growth, sustainable development, and
5 fulfillment of human rights. Pursuant to Article XIV of the
6 Constitution which mandates the State to protect and
7 promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all
8 levels, take appropriate steps to make such education
9 accessible to all, and establish, maintain, and support a
10 complete, adequate, and integrated system of education
11 relevant to the needs of the people and society, and in
12 consonance with the Sustainable Development Goals, the
13 State hereby adopts the following policies:

14 (a) The State shall place education at the center of its
15 development policies, guided by a national vision on
16 education, to be strategically fulfilled through a set of
17 specific, targeted, measurable and time-bound solutions
18 that is a product of a comprehensive assessment and
19 evaluation, effective planning, and strategic investments in
20 education;

1 (b) The State shall develop a more harmonized and
2 coordinated education ecosystem that will lead to the
3 achievement of the goal of developing the country's human
4 capital as an essential factor to national development,
5 through a review of the mandates of the three sub-sectors
6 of education, namely the Department of Education
7 (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED),
8 and the Technical Education and Skills Development
9 Authority (TESDA); and

10 (c) The State recognizes the role of digital
11 transformation in education, and shall give priority to the
12 use of science, technology and innovation for the sector to
13 evolve into an effective, efficient and disruptive force in
14 society.

15 SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – It is the objective of this Act to
16 create an EDCOM II to undertake a comprehensive
17 national assessment and evaluation of the performance of
18 the Philippine education sector for the purpose of
19 recommending transformative, concrete and targeted

1 reforms in the sector with the end in view of making the
2 Philippines an intellectual power of Asia.

3 The national assessment and evaluation shall include
4 the following:

5 (1) review of the observance of the mandates of the
6 laws that created the three education sub-sectors, namely
7 the DepEd, the CHED and the TESDA;

8 (2) determination of factors that have contributed to
9 the continuing failure in learner performance on identified
10 subject areas to meet the desired international and local
11 standards;

12 (3) recommendations comprising of specific, targeted
13 and time-bound solutions to enable the education
14 sub-sectors to improve performance vis-à-vis measurable
15 indicators and deliver accessible, inclusive and quality
16 education that is at par with world standards;

17 (4) identification of best practices of various national
18 and international educational institutions that can be
19 adopted across the entire education system;

1 (5) proposal for a monitoring and evaluation plan to
2 ensure the timely achievement of set targets;

3 (6) determination of the role of local government
4 units in the delivery of basic education services; and

5 (7) additional legislation to further the objectives of
6 this Act.

7 To address the current learning crisis, the EDCOM II
8 shall immediately draw a roadmap which shall be
9 strategic, inclusive and adaptable to global trends and
10 future challenges and proposing solutions to the issues
11 which are systemic in nature.

12 SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions of EDCOM II.* –
13 EDCOM II shall have the following powers and functions:

14 (1) assess and evaluate the formal, non-formal,
15 informal and alternative learning systems, including
16 continuing systems of education at all levels;

17 (2) produce a report of its findings;

18 (3) formulate short-term and long-term policy and
19 program recommendations that consist of specific,
20 targeted, measurable and time-bound solutions;

1 (4) approve the budget for the programs of the
2 Commission and all disbursements therefrom, including
3 compensation of all personnel;

4 (5) hold hearings and receive testimonies, reports and
5 expert advice on the status of Philippine education;

6 (6) conduct multi-stakeholder consultations on the
7 ground, including but not limited to the teachers, parents,
8 local government units, and the learners themselves;

9 (7) consult with councils which are mandated to
10 protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality
11 education;

12 (8) pass upon the recommendations of the Technical
13 Secretariat which it shall organize, to be headed by an
14 executive director;

15 (9) report to Congress its accomplishments on a
16 periodic basis;

17 (10) secure assistance from any office of the
18 government;

19 (11) hire and appoint employees and personnel
20 whether temporary, contractual, or on consultancy;

1 (12) summon by *subpoena* any public official or
2 private citizen to testify before it, or require by *subpoena*
3 *duces tecum* the production of necessary documents; and

4 (13) formulate the necessary rules and guidelines for
5 the effective implementation of the objectives of this Act.

6 SEC. 5. *Duration of EDCOM II.* – The Commission
7 shall accomplish its mandate within two (2) years from its
8 organization.

9 A Technical Secretariat shall co-exist with the
10 Commission during the said two-year period to provide
11 technical and administrative support to the Commission in
12 the exercise of its powers and performance of its functions
13 under Section 4 of this Act.

14 For purposes of administrative oversight on the
15 implementation of the short-term and long-term policy and
16 program recommendations of the Commission, the
17 Technical Secretariat shall exist for another two-year
18 period which shall immediately commence after the
19 duration of EDCOM II.

1 SEC. 6. *Composition.* – The Commission shall be
2 composed of ten (10) members, with five (5) members from
3 the Senate and five (5) members from the House of
4 Representatives.

5 The members from the Senate shall be composed of
6 the Chairpersons of the following committees:

7 (1) Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture;

8 (2) Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational
9 Education;

10 (3) Committee on Finance;

11 (4) Committee on Science and Technology; and

12 (5) Committee on Labor, Employment and Human
13 Resources Development.

14 The members from the House of Representatives
15 shall be composed of the Chairpersons of the following
16 committees:

17 (1) Committee on Basic Education and Culture;

18 (2) Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

19 (3) Committee on Appropriations;

20 (4) Committee on Science and Technology; and

1 (5) Committee on Labor and Employment.

2 The Chairpersons of the Senate Committees on Basic
3 Education, Arts and Culture, and on Higher, Technical and
4 Vocational Education, and the Chairpersons of the House
5 Committees on Basic Education and Culture, and on
6 Higher and Technical Education shall serve as
7 Co-Chairpersons of the Commission.

8 The members of the Commission may establish
9 standing committees from among its members and use
10 resource persons from the public and private sectors as
11 may be needed.

12 The members of the Commission shall receive no
13 compensation, but travelling, communications, and other
14 necessary expenses shall be allowed.

15 The Philippine Institute for Development Studies
16 (PIDS) shall serve as the research arm of the Commission.
17 During the course of the Commission's existence, it shall
18 produce data-based research and provide analysis to
19 contribute to the formulation of education policy
20 recommendations. Payment for the goods and

1 compensation for services to be entailed by the PIDS for
2 the necessary fulfillment of this function shall be included
3 in the amount to be appropriated for the Commission
4 under this Act.

5 SEC. 7. *Education, Legislation and Policy Advisory*
6 *Council.* – An Education, Legislation and Policy Advisory
7 Council is hereby created to provide the Commission with
8 expert assistance and advice. The Advisory Council shall
9 always be present in all meetings of the Commission. The
10 Senate President and the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives shall choose recognized experts from the
12 following sectors to form part of the Advisory Council: Two
13 (2) members from the academe, two (2) members from the
14 business sector, two (2) members from the government
15 education agencies, two (2) members who are heads of local
16 government units, and two (2) members from civil society
17 organizations and development partners engaged in
18 education.

19 SEC. 8. *Joint Congressional Oversight Committee*
20 *(JCOC) on EDCOM II.* – Immediately after the two-year

1 duration of EDCOM II, there is hereby created a JCOC to
2 oversee, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the
3 recommendations of the Commission. The JCOC shall be
4 composed of five (5) members each from the Senate and the
5 House of Representatives, with two (2) Co-Chairpersons
6 and two (2) Co-Vice Chairpersons. Each chamber shall
7 elect a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson to be voted
8 upon by the members of the JCOC who chair the following
9 committees:

10 (1) Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture
11 of the Senate;

12 (2) Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational
13 Education of the Senate;

14 (3) Committee on Basic Education and Culture of the
15 House of Representatives; and

16 (4) Committee on Higher and Technical Education of
17 the House of Representatives.

18 The Senate President and the Speaker of the House
19 of Representatives shall designate the other three (3)
20 members of the JCOC of the Senate and the House of

1 Representatives, respectively, from among the members of
2 the aforementioned committees, one (1) member of each
3 chamber shall be from the minority.

4 SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for
5 the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the
6 appropriations of the Senate and the House of
7 Representatives under the General Appropriations Act.

8 Twenty million pesos (P20,000,000.00) shall be
9 charged annually against the budget of the Senate, and
10 another Twenty million pesos (P20,000,000.00) shall be
11 charged annually against the budget of the House of
12 Representatives, both for a period of two (2) years, to
13 commence on the Fiscal Year 2022, and subject to
14 authorized increases that may be made by Congress.

15 SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or
16 part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the
17 remaining parts not affected shall remain in full force and
18 effect.

19 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, executive
20 orders, presidential decrees, administrative orders, rules

1 and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent
2 with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
5 (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a
6 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,