

[Act No. 3203, December 03, 1924]

AN ACT RELATING TO THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF NEGLECTED AND DELINQUENT CHILDREN; PROVIDING PROBATION OFFICERS THEREFOR; IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF ITS PROVISIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Legislature assembled and by the authority of the same:

SECTION 1. Any public institution, Insular, provincial, or municipal, including those of chartered cities, established or that may hereafter be established for the care, custody, correction, education, and training of orphan, homeless, neglected, abused, defective, and delinquent children, shall be under the supervision and administration of the Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner, and the system of instruction to be adopted therefor shall be conducted as part of the school system under the control and jurisdiction of the Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner. These institutions shall be known as industrial schools or by other appropriate names, but not as reformatories or correctional institutions.

SEC. 2. Any private institution or any benevolent or charitable society incorporated under the laws of the Philippine Islands and duly authorized therefor by the Secretary of the Interior, upon recommendation of the Public Welfare Commissioner, the purposes of which are the same as those of the institutions mentioned in section one hereof, shall be under the general inspection and supervision of the Office of the Public Welfare Commissioner and the rules and regulations adopted by such institutions shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, upon the recommendation of the Public Welfare Commissioner.

SEC. 3. Whenever any boy or girl less than eighteen years of age shall be accused in any court of an offence not punishable by life imprisonment or death, the court, before passing sentence of conviction, shall suspend all further" proceedings in the case and shall commit such minor to the custody of any of the institutions mentioned in sections one and two of this Act, until said minor shall have reached his majority or for such less period as to the court may seem proper, subject to the conditions provided in section seven hereof, or may allow him to remain and be cared for elsewhere, under probation and subject to visitation and supervision of a probation officer, as hereinafter provided, whom the court may require to report from time to time on the case: *Provided*, That the court prior to making the commitment of any minor to any private institution shall take into consideration the religion of the minor and that of his parents or next of kin, and avoid his commitment of to any private institution not under the control and supervision of the religious sect or denomination to which such minor or his parents or next of kin belong.

SEC. 4. The charges, affidavits, testimony or judgments against a minor committed under this Act shall not be a bar to the exercise of his rights as a citizen and to his holding public office or employment.

SEC. 5. Minors at present confined in any Insular, provincial or municipal jail who were under the age of eighteen years on the date of their conviction, may be