

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 4131

Introduced by Representative Virgilio S. Lacson

EXPLANATORY NOTE

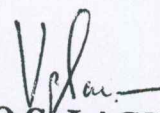
Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development".

Likewise, in Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution further provides that, "The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all students. From these provisions enshrined in the Constitution, the State recognizes the vital role of quality education in nation-building and must promote modern digital libraries and making it accessible and available in all public schools".

The E-Libraries or digital libraries primary purpose is to augment the positive learning environment of students and contribute competitive advancement in information and communications technology in their studies.

This measure seeks to establish e-libraries in all public schools across the country that will provide adequate materials to equipped the needs of the Filipino students and researchers.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


VIRGILIO S. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party List

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF E-LIBRARIES IN ALL
PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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 “E-Library Act.”
2

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall ensure that the citizens are
4 literate and are provided access to learning materials available and shared in various
5 digitalized platform.

6 The State shall also provide its citizens the opportunity to enhance their
7 individual capabilities and learning experience through adapting the developments in
8 information and communications technology in the learning process by providing
9 access to educational materials available online.
10

11 Sec. 3. *Philippine E-Library.* – The Department of Education (DepEd),
12 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Skills Development Authority
13 (TESDA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Information
14 and Communication Technology (DICT) in partnership with the National Library of the
15 Philippines and other concerned government agencies shall develop an online
16 repository system that contains educational materials and digitized copies of books and
17 publications suitable for Filipino students and researchers that shall complement
18 learning experience acquired through textbook and reference books given to the
19 students.
20

1 Sec. 4. *Internet Access.* – The Department of Education shall ensure access to the
2 online repository system by providing computers or electronic tablets or terminals all
3 primary and secondary public schools nationwide.

4 In order to ensure access to the online repository system, the Department of
5 Information and Communications Technology shall provide fast and reliable internet
6 access to all e-libraries in all public schools.
7

8 Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* – The initial amount of Five Hundred Million
9 (Php500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the implementations of this Act and
10 shall be managed by the Department of Education and the Department of Information
11 and Communications Technology.

12 An annual budget of One Hundred Million Pesos (Php100,000,000.00) will be
13 included in the annual budget of the Department of Education to make sure that the
14 technologies needed for the implementation of this Act will be maintained.
15

16 Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education,
17 the Department of Information and Communications Technology and the National
18 Library of the Philippines shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to
19 implement the provisions of this Act within one hundred and twenty (120) days from
20 the effectivity of this Act.
21

22 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or portion of this Act is declared
23 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not thereby affected shall
24 remain in full force and effect.
25

26 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules,
27 regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any
28 provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, and/or modified accordingly.
29

30 Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
31 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
32
33

34 Approved,