

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1705



Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The education system relies heavily on the textbook and reading materials that it provides the students. Much of the basic knowledge that students learn comes from these learning aids. It is discouraging to lead news articles about how textbooks from the Department of Education used largely by the public education system are riddled with errors. In order to improve the education in the country, it is imperative that the materials being published for students' use are reviewed regularly and are up to standards.

This bill seeks to improve the competencies of the educational materials in our public educational system by mandating that an educational curriculum should have continuity and stability by keeping the same for a period of at least 6 years.

Consequently, in order to resolve errors in textbooks and related materials, and to ensure that they are up to standards, an annual review shall be conducted by the Department of Education in cooperation with the National Book Development Board

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1705

Introduced by **HONORABLE LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT

MANDATING THE CONTINUITY OF EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX (6) YEARS AND ENSURING THE STABILITY OF THE CONSEQUENT TEXTBOOKS AND RELATED MATERIALS THROUGH AN ANNUAL REVIEW, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8047, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY ACT, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of R.A. No. 8047, otherwise known as the Book Publishing Industry Development Act, is hereby amended by adding a paragraph to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is recognized that the book publishing industry has a significant role in national development, considering that books which are its products are instrumental in the citizenry's intellectual, technical and cultural development — the basic social foundation for the economic and social growth of the country. Books are the most effective and economical tools for achieving educational growth, for imparting information and for recording, preserving, and dissemination the nation's cultural heritage.

Accordingly, it is hereby declared a policy of the State to promote the continuing development of the book public industry, with the active participation of the private sector, to ensure an adequate supply of affordable, quality-produced books not only for the domestic but also for the exon market. For this purpose, the Government shall formulate, adopt, and implement a National Book Policy and a corresponding National Book Development Plan that will serve as the enduring basis for fostering the progressive growth and viability of the book industry.

TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVE-MENTIONED POLICY, IT IS HEREBY MANDATED THAT EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM AND THE CONSEQUENT PREPARATION OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS SHOULD HAVE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY, AND THAT THE SAME SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX (6) YEARS.'

SECTION 2. Section 10 of R.A. No. 8047 is hereby amended by adding a paragraph to read as follows:

"Sec. 10. Public School and Textbook Publishing. — The DECS shall consult with the Board in prescribing the guidelines, rules and regulation in preparing the minimum learning competencies and/or prototypes and other specifications for books required by public elementary and secondary schools.

The DECS shall confine itself to:

- a) preparing the minimum learning competencies, and/or prototypes and other specifications for books and/or manuscripts called for;
- b) testing, evaluating, selecting and approving the manuscripts or books to be submitted by the publishers for multiple adoption;
- c) promulgating with the participation and assistance of the Board rules and regulations for the private book publishers in the call, testing, evaluation, selection, approval, as well as production specification and acquisition of public school textbooks;
- d) GUIDELINES, RULES AND REGULATIONS IN PREPARING THE MINIMUM LEARNING COMPETENCIES AND/OR PROTOTYPES AND OTHER SPECIFICATIONS FOR TEXTBOOK AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX (6) YEARS;
- e) SUBSEQUENT ANNUAL REVIEW, IN COORDINATION AND COOPERATION OF THE BOARD, OF THE TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AS MENTIONED ABOVE.

The printing of public elementary and secondary school textbooks shall be done o a regional or provincial level, whenever economically feasible.

The DECS shall within a period of not more than three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act phase out its elementary and secondary textbook publication and distribution functions and shall support the phasing in of private sector publishers to assume these functions here. For its part, the Board shall monitor and conduct an annual evaluation of the progress of the shift of functions from the DECS to the private sector."

SECTION 3. The Department of Education (DepEd) in consultation with the National Book Development Board (NBDB) and with the active participation of the private publishers such as Philippine Book Federation (PhilBook), Philippine Education

Publishers Association (PEPA) and the National Book Suppliers and Publishers Association of the Philippines (NBSAP) shall issue guidelines and prescribe rules and regulations within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act. A copy of such guidelines, rules and regulations shall be furnished the Congress of the Philippines through the respective Chairmen of the Committee on Education, Arts, Culture of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. — Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,