

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 1879

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the trends that go hand in hand with the phenomenon of globalization is the promotion of the use of information technology in various fields such as business, media, communication and education. With information technology, learning is no longer restricted within the four walls of the classroom, nor is it limited to the use of books and magazines.

Republic Act No. 7743 was enacted specifically to put up libraries and/or reading centers in every city, municipality and barangay in order to boost the literacy rate of our citizenry. A number of years have passed already but the intent of the law has yet to be fully implemented.

However, there is a need to upgrade our learning system such that every learning and reading center will employ the latest computer and electronic library technology in order to best serve our fellowmen.

In view of the foregoing considerations early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
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AN ACT

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY, AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of RA 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. *Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading Centers.*- The National Library in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall undertake the establishment of additional public libraries to serve all congressional districts, cities and municipalities in the Philippines and reading centers in every barangay except in cities or municipalities where there are existing public libraries or in barangays where there are existing public libraries or in barangays where there are existing reading centers: Provided, That the establishment program of the National Library shall be BASED ON THE LATEST COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY in coordination with the development council of each city or municipality and in the case of the barangay reading centers, in coordination with the respective barangay councils: Provided, Further, That where these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade the facilities thereof. [...] WITH COMPLETE STANDARD SETS OF BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS AS PROVIDED UNDER SEC. 3 OF THIS ACT AS WELL AS THE LATEST ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM USING COMPUTERS FOR STORING, CATALOGING, AND FILING OF DATA AND MATERIALS: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT BY THE YEAR 2008, ALL THE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM.

SECTION 2. Section 7 of RA 7738 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 7. *Appropriations.*- The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law [and for the next five (5) years: thereafter this local government units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while the National Library shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the said libraries and

reading centers]. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED, THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SHALL BE INCREASED IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P500,000,000.00) PER YEAR UNTIL ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE PROVIDED WITH AND HAVE ACCESS TO FULL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FACILITIES.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,