



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 514



Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

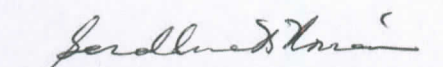
EXPLANATORY NOTE

In an increasingly digitized world, creating globally-competitive Filipinos requires a citizenry that is literate insofar as utilizing information and communications technology is concerned. Ensuring that students are well-trained in using computers for educational purposes no longer is a luxury. Rather, it is a necessity which – when ignored – is bound to leave a people behind as the world progresses in an information superhighway.

Digitizing textbooks and establishing the Philippine Online Library creates more opportunities because students are able to enhance their learning experience, especially while in provinces, municipalities, and barangays that are so remote that constructing and maintaining quality library buildings in schools are impractical. Students would be immersed in a digital world where education takes the stead of online gaming or, as in the case for most students, ignorance. The Department of Information and Communications Technology can be tasked to ensure seamless and reliable internet access in primary and secondary public schools for the purpose of accessing this online educational library.

As for the procurement of computers necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act, the Department of Education can start by tapping into the old computers of government agencies, GOCCs, and GFIs as they procure new ones. The Department of Education can deploy these for the use of students nationwide. This should offset the initial expenses related to the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
DIGITIZING ALL BOOKS NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ONLINE LIBRARY, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Online Library Act of 2017.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy – It shall be the policy of the State to ensure that its citizens are computer literate and are provided access to an increasingly digitized world. Thus, the State shall provide its citizens with the opportunity to increase their adaptability with information and communications technology, and to enhance their learning experience by providing access to digitized copies of textbooks necessary for the provision of quality primary and secondary education.

Section 3. Philippine Online Library – The Department of Education shall create a digitized copy of all textbooks and reference books it deems necessary for the public education of Philippine elementary and secondary students. This shall be compiled in the Philippine Online Library which shall be jointly managed by the Department of Education and the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

Section 4. Provision for Access to the Digitized Copies of Textbooks – The Department of Education shall ensure access to the digitized copies of textbooks by providing computers to all primary and secondary public schools nationwide.

Similarly, in order to ensure access to the digitized copies of textbooks, the Department of Information and Communications Technology shall provide fast and reliable internet access to each primary and secondary public school.

Section 5. *Recycling of Computers* – In order to offset expenses related to the procurement of computers necessary for the immediate execution of the provisions of this Act, national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, and other government financial institutions which shall procure new computers shall endorse their old units to the Department of Information and Communications Technology to check if the computers can still be used for the intent of this Act and afterwards shall be given to the Department of Education for deployment to primary and secondary public schools nationwide.

Section 6. *Additional Online Educational Materials*– The Department of Education can tap the National Library of the Philippines to complement the Philippine Online Library's digital repository of textbooks with additional materials that is representative of Filipino culture and literature. DepEd shall also be allowed to add other online materials that it deems necessary for expanding the learning opportunities for students.

Section 7. *Custody over Digitized Copies of Textbooks* – The Department of Education and the National Library of the Philippines shall have joint custody over the digitized copies of the textbooks. The Department of Information and Communications Technology shall likewise ensure the technological management of the digital repository to ensure the integrity of the system.

Section 8. *Appropriations* – The initial amount of Five Hundred Million (Php 500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the immediate implementation of this act and shall be jointly managed by the Department of Education and by the Department of Information and Communications Technology. An annual budget of One Hundred Million (Php 100,000,000.00) will be included in the annual budget of the Department of Education to make sure that the computers and internet connection of public schools for the purpose of this Act will be maintained.

Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Education, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, and the National Library of the Philippines shall have joint responsibility over the formulation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective execution and enforcement of this Act. They shall do so in close coordination with the Department of Science and Technology, and other stakeholders. The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be released within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act.

Section 10. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 11. *Separability Clause* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act, or any portion thereof, or the application of such section, provision, or portion to any person, group, or circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such section, provision, or portion thereof to other persons, groups, or circumstances shall not be affected by such declaration.

Section 12. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,