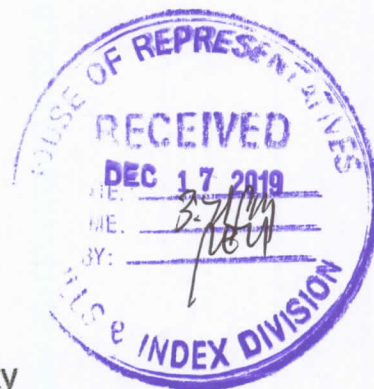




Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**5837**

House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

---

Introduced by **ALFELITO "ALFEL" M. BASCUG**, Representative,  
1<sup>ST</sup> Legislative District of Agusan del Sur.

---

**AN ACT AMENDING SEC. 6 OF 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, APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" AND PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS NOT PRESENTLY INCLUDED IN THE LAW BY MAKING USE OF THE ESTABLISHED LIBRARIES SITUATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES, PROVINCES AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS WITH BIG STATE UNIVERSITIES AND/OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AS 24/7 STUDY HUBS OR LEARNING HUBS FOR STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS**

**Explanatory Note**

The passage of Republic Act 7743 also known as "*An Act Providing for the Establishment of Congressional, City and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers throughout the Philippines, Appropriating the Necessary Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes*" or the *Philippine Library Law*, had brought significant resolution to the public necessity of having a public library. Being a recognized necessity, it serves as an information artillery for students, professionals and the public at large. All the while, the purpose of establishing public libraries is frequently intertwined with the educational sector. Indeed, its creation is a recognition of the State's imperative duty to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all pursuant to its declared policies as enunciated in Article XIV, Sec. 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Further, even assuming that a



legislation of this kind is has not been enacted; it is a cherished policy for local government units to maintain a *public library* as part of its duty to deliver basic services and facilities.

Apart from the above-anchored provisions, the need for a public library is not only limited to its existence. The opportunity to use the establishment is of significant consideration since it has been a common dilemma for the target users (students, professionals, general public, etc.) to experience time constraints due to personal commitments and demands of work. In view of the following concerns, this legislation is aimed at bridging the connection of the establishment's purpose and the users for proper utilization. Hence, the object of this legislation to expand the operating hours of the established public libraries into a 24-hour operation in a week. It can certainly accommodate students and professionals who wish to study beyond the regular library hours. In effect, a 24-hour library ensures that students can study in a flexible manner at a place that is conducive and hassle-free instead of going to coffee shops or fast-food chains where they need to shell out money for food or drink so they will be allowed to gain internet access and get their schoolwork done.

The amendment introduced by this legislation is aimed at utilizing the established libraries by R.A. 7743. In doing so, there is no need to subsidize the construction of new buildings in furtherance of this Act since the existing public libraries already established under the Philippine Library Law is to be used. In fact, this will further develop the preservation and maintenance of the libraries since its operations and use will be regular.

Indeed, this legislation has already been implemented in various local governments throughout the country particularly in Cebu, Makati and Quezon City. This action has gathered positive result and hence it appeared that the need to nationalize this legislation is vital most especially to the students and working professionals whose workloads demands effort in research and education. Further, this measure is secured in order to elevate the learning capacities of students as well as the working professionals in every place where public library has been established.

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



ALFELITO M. BASCUG



Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5837

---

Introduced by **ALFELITO "ALFEL" M. BASCUG**, Representative,  
1<sup>ST</sup> Legislative District of Agusan del Sur.

---

**AN ACT AMENDING SEC. 6 OF 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, APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" AND PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS NOT PRESENTLY INCLUDED IN THE LAW BY MAKING USE OF THE ESTABLISHED LIBRARIES SITUATED IN MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES, PROVINCES AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS WITH BIG STATE UNIVERSITIES AND/OR PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AS 24/7 STUDY HUBS OR LEARNING HUBS FOR STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS**

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

**SECTION 1. Definition of Terms.** The following terms as used in this Act shall be defined as follows:

- a. **Big State Universities and or Private Universities-** these educational institutions which are publicly-operated as for a State University or privately-owned and operated for a Private University or School in the Philippines which accommodates huge number of students



enrolled in the institution as determined by the Commission on Higher Education.

- b. ***Study Hub or Learning hub-*** A *study hub* or a *learning hub* are terms that may be interchangeably used in this Act which refers to an area or space, such as a public library where students and professionals can utilize to study therein and conduct research, paper works and other school or work-related matters. It also refers to a technology-rich learning environment with both physical and virtual components that provide formal and informal opportunities for learners to come together with peers, teachers, and other experts in their field. Here, individuals can access relevant knowledge and information, enlist support from educators and other learners, and, in so doing, develop new opportunities to improve their livelihoods for professionals and develop learning capacities for students.
- c. ***24/7-*** means "24 hours a day, 7 days a week" and is used to describe a service that is continuous and is always available (day or night); such that as used in this Act, it shall refer to the whole day operation of the public library concerned.

**SECTION 2. Section 6 of RA 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**Sec. 6. Functions of the Public Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers.** - The public libraries and barangay reading centers shall have the following functions:

- a) to make available to the members of the community reading materials of wide array including reading materials prescribed by the Department of Education Culture and Sports and national newspapers of general circulation and others;

b) to be used as a venue for audio-visual presentation in the community and other kinds of exhibitions and activities aimed at increasing the literacy rate by government agencies, non-governmental organizations or private entities in the dissemination of information of general interest; and

**c) TO BE USED AS A STUDY HUB OR  
LEARNING HUB FOR STUDENTS AND  
PROFESSIONALS;**

d) to offer such other related services in the furtherance of this Act.

**SECTION 3. *Operations***- The public libraries covered by this Act shall operate 24/7 or in twenty-four (24) hours a day in a week.

**SECTION 4. *Scope and Coverage***. This Act shall be adopted by Local Government Units throughout the Philippines with established public libraries in their respective jurisdictions as provided in R.A. 7743. The determination of libraries which will be covered by this Act shall depend on the number of target users who are students and professionals of neighboring Big State Universities and Private Universities situated in the jurisdiction of the Local Government Unit concerned. For purposes of determining such State Universities and Private Universities, the Commission on Higher Education shall provide a list to this effect.

**SECTION 5. *24/7 Services***- The public library covered by this Act shall be made available to the target users for the whole day or in 24/7 availability. Library rules shall effectively apply to all users. Further, that in order to avail the 24/7 services of the public library, only students and professionals reaching the age of majority shall be allowed to work overnight. This is however without prejudice to areas or places that have functional ordinances or regulations respecting curfew hours. In case of conflict with such ordinances or regulations, the latter prevails.

**SECTION 6. *Personnel***- Personnel or employees already assigned, detailed, or employed under the office of the public library in their respective places shall be the same personnel who shall ensure the operation and management of the public library. They shall however be subject to proper compensation for services rendered in overnight operations in addition to their daily minimum salary in compliance with the laws and regulations relating to compensation.

The appointing authority shall be allowed to appoint additional personnel as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.



**SECTION 7. Duty of Concerned Agencies-** The Local Government Units through the Department of Interior and Local Government in coordination with the National Library and the Commission on Higher Education shall enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for further implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other person or circumstance shall not be affected by such declaration.

**SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.*** -All laws, decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders and rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof in consistent or in conflict with any provision of this Act.

**SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*