

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



'22 JUL 11 P 4 :21

SENATE
S. No. 258

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE "ONE TABLET, ONE STUDENT" PROGRAM FOR
ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STATE UNIVERSITIES
AND COLLEGES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The education sector of the country implemented new learning modalities in recent years to be able to adapt to the changes and limitations brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Online classes and video lessons were among the means utilized by the schools in all levels of education to maintain the interaction between the educators and their students. This mode necessitates both parties to use a smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer and a stable internet connection. Unfortunately, not all students can afford to buy these gadgets and we have seen a number of them expressing their dismay and frustration on not owning one. This resulted in their inability to join their online classes and difficulty to catch up with their lessons. Moreover, it highlighted the big gap between privileged students and less privileged ones.

A survey of the Department of Education (DepEd) revealed that 2,138,630 learners do not have a laptop, desktop, gadget, TV or radio. More than this, there are students who have the necessary gadgets but do not have internet access.

The implementation of online and distance learning is not confined to the context of COVID-19. DepEd endeavors to utilize and maximize this mode of learning to make education more inclusive to the learners, especially in rural and far-flung areas. This is the thrust of the Public Schools of the Future (PSOF) Framework of the Administration Strand of DepEd. In sum, with current and future trends of teaching modalities, the use of electronic gadgets proves to be a necessity.

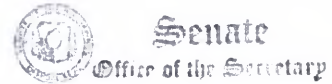
The "*One Tablet, One Student Act*" seeks to establish a program under DepEd and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) that will provide each public elementary, secondary and tertiary student with a tablet computer to enable them to participate in online learning. Students who already have said gadgets will be provided with internet allowance.

This measure was filed by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay as Senate Bill No. 2454 in the 18th Congress and was co-authored by this Representation. Measures of the same nature were also filed in the House of Representatives.

In view of the foregoing, the swift passage of this measure is highly recommended.

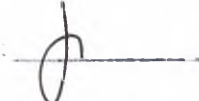

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Karunungan Ating*
2 *Paunlarin Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State shall protect and promote the right
4 of all citizens to quality education at all levels. Further, the State shall take appropriate
5 measures to make education accessible to all particularly during the COVID-19
6 pandemic.

7 Sec. 3. *One Tablet, One Student Program.* - The One Tablet, One Student
8 program is hereby established to provide each public elementary, secondary and
9 tertiary student a tablet computer, hereinafter referred to as "tablet", each to enable
10 them to effectively participate in online learning: *Provided,* That students who already
11 have their own personal learning gadgets shall be given educational assistance in the
12 form of an internet allowance to cover the cost of connectivity.

13 Sec. 4. *Implementing Agency.* - The Department of Education (DepEd) and
14 the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are hereby tasked to implement the One
15 Tablet, One Student program and shall:

- 1 1) develop a comprehensive system to determine the eligibility of students
- 2 who will qualify under the said program;
- 3 2) develop an efficient and expeditious distribution system; and,
- 4 3) formulate guidelines on usage, maintenance and accountability for the
- 5 tablets.

6 *Sec. 5. Appropriations.* – An amount of Two Hundred Million Pesos
7 (P200,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury
8 for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary
9 for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated in the succeeding General
10 Appropriations Act.

11 *Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd and CHED, in
12 coordination with the local government units, through the Department of the Interior
13 and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Information and
14 Communications Technology (DICT), shall promulgate all the necessary rules and
15 regulations for its effective implementation not later than thirty (30) days upon the
16 effectivity of this Act. The DepEd and CHED shall publish such rules and regulations
17 once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in newspapers of general circulation.

18 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
19 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
20 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

21 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
22 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
23 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
24 accordingly.

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

Approved,