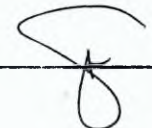


7

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

'22 JUL 14 P3:39

SENATE
S. B. No. 631

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, AMENDING
FOR THE 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

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.

This measure seeks to ensure that congressional, city, or municipal libraries and barangay reading centers are equipped with the latest information management systems, considering the learning challenges encountered from the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, we aim to underscore that in a time where social distancing and strict health protocols are implemented, public libraries and reading centers should not only continue lending out reading materials—physical or digital—but also provide other services that would benefit the community. Such services may include

access to free WiFi, and affordable rentals of ICT equipment like smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers and mobile WiFi hotspots. These may also include webinars and online training modules for reskilling or upskilling.

We also intend to underscore that public libraries and reading centers should actively participate in the preservation of local heritage and history. In this way, they become crucial to promoting nationalism, socio-civic consciousness, and harmony throughout the community.

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




SONNY ANGARA
和



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

'22 JUL 14 P3:39

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE
S. B. No. 631

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, AMENDING
FOR THE 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:

1 Section 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 "Sec. 2. *Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading Centers.* – The
4 National Library in coordination with the Department of the Interior and
5 Local Government (DILG) shall undertake the establishment of additional
6 public libraries to serve all congressional districts, cities and municipalities
7 in the Philippines and reading centers in every barangay except in cities or
8 municipalities where there are existing public libraries or in barangays
9 where there are existing reading centers: *Provided,* That the
10 ~~[establishment of such libraries and reading centers shall be based on the~~
11 ~~development program of the National Library]~~ **PROGRAM OF THE**
12 **NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR ESTABLISHING SUCH PUBLIC**
13 **LIBRARIES AND READING CENTERS SHALL BE CONTINUOUSLY**
14 **UPDATED TO INCLUDE THE LATEST COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC**
15 **LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY,** in coordination with the development council

1 of each city or municipality and in the case of the barangay reading
2 centers, in coordination with the respective barangay councils: *Provided,*
3 *further,* That where these public libraries and reading centers already
4 exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade the facilities thereof
5 **WITH COMPLETE STANDARD SETS OF BOOKS, E-BOOKS, ONLINE**
6 **RESEARCH RESOURCES, SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ONLINE ACADEMIC**
7 **JOURNALS, DATABASES AND PERIODICALS, AND OTHER**
8 **MATERIALS AS PROVIDED UNDER SEC. 3 OF THIS ACT AS WELL**
9 **AS THE LATEST ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR STORING,**
10 **CATALOGING, AND FILING OF DATA AND MATERIALS:**
11 ***PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT BY THE YEAR 2022, ALL THE CITIES***
12 ***AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE PROVIDED***
13 ***WITH AN ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM."***

14 Sec. 2. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as
15 follows:

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

18 (a) to make available to the members of the community reading materials of
19 wide array, **CONTENT AND FORMAT, WHETHER PHYSICAL OR**
20 **DIGITAL,** including **BUT NOT LIMITED TO** reading materials prescribed
21 by the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports and national
22 newspapers of general circulation and others;

23 (b) to be used as a venue for audio-visual presentations [~~in the community~~]
24 and other kinds of exhibitions, **SEMINARS, TRAINING MODULES,**
25 **WEBINARS,** and activities **WITH OBJECTIVES THAT INCLUDE BUT**
26 **ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- 27 1. **INCREASING THE FUNCTIONAL LITERACY RATE;**
- 28 2. **ENCOURAGING A CULTURE OF READING, SELF-STUDY AND**
29 **LIFELONG LEARNING;**
- 30 3. **PRESERVING THE LOCAL HERITAGE AND HISTORY; AND,**

1 4. **PROMOTING NATIONALISM, SOCIO-CIVIC**
2 **CONSCIOUSNESS, AND HARMONY THROUGHOUT THE**
3 **LOCAL COMMUNITY;**

4 (c) **TO SERVE AS ACCESS POINTS FOR FREE FAST INTERNET**
5 **CONNECTIVITY, IN LINE WITH THE POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND**
6 **PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND**
7 **COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT);**

8 (d) **TO PROVIDE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY**
9 **STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS),**
10 **AND SENIOR CITIZENS, AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE RENTAL**
11 **SERVICES FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**
12 **TECHNOLOGY (ICT) AND EQUIPMENT SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED**
13 **TO SMARTPHONES, TABLETS, LAPTOPS, DESKTOP COMPUTERS,**
14 **AND MOBILE WIFI HOTSPOTS;**

15 (e) to offer such other related services in the furtherance of this Act.

16 Sec. 3. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as
17 follows:

18 "Sec. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the
19 provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations
20 Act of the year following its enactment into law [~~and for the next five~~
21 ~~(5) years: thereafter this local government units shall undertake the~~
22 ~~maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while the National~~
23 ~~Library shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the~~
24 ~~said libraries and reading centers]. **IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDS**
25 **NECESSARY FOR THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO BE**
26 **IMPLEMENTED, THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY**
27 **SHALL BE INCREASED IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED**
28 **MILLION PESOS (P500,000,000.00) PER YEAR UNTIL ALL**
29 **CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE**
30 **PROVIDED AND HAVE ACCESS TO FULL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY**
31 **FACILITIES."**~~

1 Sec. 3. *Role of the Department of Information and Communications*
2 *Technology (DICT).* – The Department of Information and Communications
3 Technology (DICT) shall assist in the provision of the cutting-edge computer and
4 electronic library technology, as well as a fast and reliable internet connection,
5 through the Department’s flagship programs, including but not limited to the
6 Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development
7 (Tech4ED) Project.

8 Sec. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is
9 subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are
10 not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

11 Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees,
12 executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or
13 parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this
14 Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

15 Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,