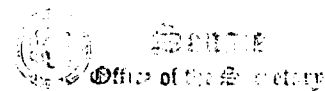
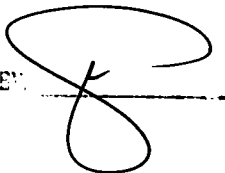


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



23 AUG 30 P 4 :40

SENATE
S. No. 2429

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7743 was enacted to boost the moral and intellectual capabilities of Filipinos by raising literacy levels and underscoring education's vital role in nation-building. This shall be accomplished through the establishment of public libraries and reading centers in every local government unit. The law provides that the number of these facilities should correspond to the number of barangays, municipalities, cities, provinces, or congressional districts in the nation. Nonetheless, official 2023 statistics from the National Library of the Philippines show that the country currently only possesses a mere 1,640 public libraries. This figure is notably inadequate compared to the abundance of barangays, municipalities, cities, provinces, or congressional districts in the country.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the requirement to furnish accessible learning resources to educators and students. A report from UNICEF published in December 2022 found that there is a need to include digital learning in national policies and plans, increase resources for digital learning, and blend the education of children with technology, among others.

There is an urgent necessity to ensure that the country's public libraries and reading centers are adequately prepared to address the escalating challenges within the education sector. Consequently, there is a need to equip public libraries with modern computer and electronic library equipment in order to ensure that Filipinos have access to a wide variety of up-to-date learning materials.

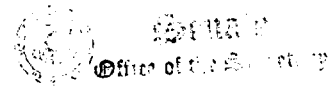
The measure aims to amend Republic Act No. 7743, also recognized as the "Law for Establishing Congressional, City and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers across the Philippines, Allocating the Required Finances, and for Other Objectives" through making certain that all public libraries align with the needs of an interconnected and globalized Filipino society. In addition, the proposed legislation secures the funding necessary for implementation and calls for annual increments until all cities and municipalities have access to full electronic library facilities. Furthermore, the measure mandates that the development councils of each city or municipality ensure that their library centers and/or reading centers are equipped with the latest technological equipment required for the provision of efficient electronic library services.

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



LOREN LEGARDA

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 National
4 Library in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government
5 (DILG) shall undertake the establishment of additional public libraries to serve all
6 congressional districts, cities and municipalities in the Philippines and reading centers
7 in every barangay except in cities or municipalities where there are existing public
8 libraries or barangays where there are existing reading centers: *Provided*, That the
9 establishment of such libraries and reading centers shall be based on the development
10 program of the National Library **BASED ON THE LATEST COMPUTER AND**
11 **ELECTRONIC LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY** in coordination with the development
12 council of each city or municipality under Sec. 106 of the Local Government Code and
13 in the case of the barangay reading centers, in coordination with the respective
14 barangay councils: *Provided, further*, That where these public libraries and reading
15 centers already exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade facilities thereof
16 **[.] WITH COMPLETE STANDARD SETS OF BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS**

1 AS PROVIDED UNDER SEC. 3 OF THIS ACT AS WELL AS THE LATEST
2 ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM USING COMPUTERS FOR STORING,
3 CATALOGING, AND FILING OF DATA AND MATERIAL; *PROVIDED,*
4 *FINALLY,* THAT BY THE YEAR 2027, ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OF
5 THE PHILIPPINES BE PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED LIBRARY
6 SYSTEM."

7 Sec. 2. Sec. 7 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 "Sec. 7. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
9 this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its
10 enactment into law [and for the next five (5) years thereafter, the local government
11 units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while
12 the National Library shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to said
13 libraries and reading centers]. **IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR
14 THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED, THE BUDGET
15 OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SHALL BE INCREASED IN THE AMOUNT OF
16 FIVE MILLION PESOS (P5,000,000.00) PER YEAR UNTIL ALL CITIES AND
17 MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE PROVIDED AND HAVE ACCESS
18 TO FULL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FACILITIES."**

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

22 Sec. 4. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
23 following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of
24 general circulation.

Approved,