

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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S E N A T E

S. No. 305

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the information age that we live in, the leaps and bounds achieved by industries associated with information technology have made possible the rapid dissemination of advancements in science, technology, agriculture, engineering, and many other fields of knowledge.

If the Philippine labor force is to catch up with the rest of the world, Philippine policy makers should be cognizant of the fact that today, computer literacy is a skill that is as basic to a student as mathematics, language or reading literacy.

This bill seeks to establish the Board on Computer Education as the government agency that will be tasked to promote the development of computer literacy among Filipino students. It also proposes enabling measures and incentives such as tax-free importation of computer hardware by accredited entities in order to facilitate the implementation of a computer literacy program in nineteen of the country's poorest provinces.

Our abundant supply of labor will turn out to be a liability unless our workers are adequately equipped with the skills needed to compete in the global arena. This measure proposes to achieve the goal of a competitive Philippine labor force through computer education.

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

S. Osmeña III

SERGIO OSMEÑA III
Senator

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE

S. No. 305

Introduced by Senator S. R. Osmeña III

AN ACT
TO INTEGRATE A COMPUTER EDUCATION PROGRAM INTO THE
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

1 Sec. 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to
2 promote functional computer literacy in all schools, at the earliest possible stage,
3 and in a manner that is most efficient and effective in producing a population that
4 is highly skilled in the creation, use and manipulation of computer software. In
5 this regard, private sector initiative and participation shall always be encourage to
6 achieve this policy objective.

7 Sec. 2. *Board on Computer Education; Creation, Power and Functions.* –
8 A Board on Computer Education, hereafter referred to as Board, is hereby
9 created to implement the provision of this Act and for this purpose shall have the
10 following powers and shall exercise the following functions:

11 a) supervise the accreditation of the computer schools which
12 will participate in the program;

13 b). assess and provide for the necessary training of the
14 personnel of computer schools on methods of teaching;

15 c) prepare the curriculum for computer-aided logic, math and
16 science education in the elementary level;

17 d) monitor the performance of the computer schools;

- 1 e) evaluate the abilities of the students enrolled in the program;
- 2 f) issue and implement all rules and regulations provided for in
- 3 this Act; and
- 4 g) exercise all other powers and functions which may be
- 5 necessary to carry out the provision of this Act.

6 Sec. 3. *Board Composition.* - The Board shall be composed of the

7 following Members:

8 a) One (1) representative from the Department of Education

9 (DepEd) to be nominated by the Secretary of DepEd;

10 b) One (1) representative from the Commission on Higher

11 Education (CHED) to be nominated by the CHED Chairman;

12 c) One (1) representative from the Department of Science and

13 Technology to be nominated by the Secretary and Technology to be

14 nominated by the Secretary of the Department of Science and

15 Technology.

16 d) One (1) representative from the duly accredited professional

17 organizations of computer programmers and system analysts to be

18 nominated by the recognized leadership of these organizations;

19 e) One representative from the National Economic

20 Development Authority, to be nominated by the Secretary-General of the

21 National Economic Development Authority;

22 The representative from the DepEd shall serve as Chairman of the Board.

23 The Chairman and the Members shall be appointed by the President of

24 the Republic of the Philippines for a term of five (5) years and shall have the rank

25 and compensation of a Bureau of Director.

26 Sec. 4. *Promotion of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme and*

27 *other similar arrangements.* - The provision of Republic Act No. 6957, as

28 amended, shall be applied to the construction, operation and servicing of

1 computer education and its facilities, *provided that* any contractual arrangement
2 that will be utilized for this purpose shall additionally provide for the following:

3 a) A training program for teachers not only on computer literacy but also
4 on the maintenance and servicing of computer education facilities; and

5 b) An apprenticeship program for interested students of the public school
6 being serviced whereby they may be employed as apprentices for the education
7 component or for the facilities maintenance component of computer education.

8 The build-operate-transfer arrangement or any other similar arrangements
9 provided for in Republic Act No. 6957, as amended, may be bidden out and
10 awarded at the school district level or at the school level, in accordance with the
11 implementing rules and regulations to be issued by the Board.

12 Sec. 5. *Institutionalization of the Voucher System for Specialized*
13 *Computer Education in the Nineteen (19) Poorest Provinces.* - In addition to
14 whatever contractual arrangements which may be utilized under the provisions of
15 Section 4 hereof, there shall be created a voucher system for specialized
16 computer education in the country's nineteen (19) poorest provinces whereby
17 each of these provinces shall be given the amount of Five Million Pesos
18 (P5,000,000.00) each year from the annual budget allocated for the
19 implementation of the specialized computer education program, or such amount
20 as may be latter on provided by law.

21 Students in these provinces who have completed secondary education
22 shall be allowed to take competitive aptitude examinations in specialized
23 computer education.

24 Students who have passed such qualifying examinations, or as many of
25 those who may be provided funds from the annual budget, shall be given a
26 voucher worth Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) each, or such amount as may
27 be later on provided by law, to enroll in a computer school of his or her choice, to
28 finish advanced and specialized computer courses such as, but not limited to,

1 advanced programming, computer-aided design, hardware design, networking, or
2 such other courses that may be identified by the Board.

3 Each student shall be entitled to only one voucher. The Board shall issue
4 the implementing rules and regulations to ensure that students do not enroll in
5 more than one school, or that enrollment figures reflect actual enrollment. Student
6 found guilty of violating this one-voucher-per-student rule shall be subject to the
7 penalties provided hereunder.

8 Sec. 6. *Accreditation of Computer Education Service Providers.* – All
9 entities participating the activities described in Section 4 and 5 hereof must be
10 accredited by the Board as *bona fide* participants. The accreditation must be
11 renewed for every period of not less than one year but not more than five years.
12 Accreditation shall be based on the following criteria:

- 13 a) The curriculum meet the standards provided for by the Board;
- 14 b) The quality of the computers and other peripherals to be
15 provided and the other peripherals to be provided and the other physical
16 infrastructures to be built, operated or used which must ensure quality of
17 education and minimum health and safety standards;
- 18 c) The capability of the service provider's instructors. The Board will
19 issue minimum standards for evaluating teaching ability; and
- 20 d) With respect to renewal of applications, the performance of the
21 students on performance measures to be designed by the Board.

22 Sec. 7. *Curriculum of Publicly-funded Computer Education.* – The
23 computer literacy program acknowledges the vital participation of the private
24 sector in the scheme, but the curriculum shall be prepared by the Board.

25 The curriculum should make use of computer-assisted education to teach
26 elementary students the basic courses of math, science and logic. These
27 courses will prepare the student for the demands of computer programming and
28 system analysis, as well as strengthen the learning the student receives from the
29 formal educational system.

1 The Board will also prepare the curriculum for computer programming and
2 popular software utilization, which will be taught at the high school level.

3 *Sec. 8. Monitoring and Incentives on Performance.* – Monitoring of the
4 program shall be done to maintain the quality of education being given to the
5 students. Performance measures shall include, but not be limited to, the
6 following:

- 7 a. periodic renewal of accreditation or license to operate.
- 8 b. Testing
- 9 c. National competitions; and
- 10 d. Unannounced visits to participating schools.

11 The Board shall formulate or commission the formulation of a performance
12 index which will be used in assessing the performance of the participating
13 schools. The latest results of the evaluation of all schools shall be published
14 before the start of every school year.

15 The Board shall formulate a system of rewards and incentives to promote
16 excellence among the service providers.

17 *Sec. 9. Tax-free Importation of Computer Hardware and Software.* – All
18 entities who have been accredited, or who have obtained contracts as
19 participants in the activities provided for in Sections 4 and 5 hereof shall be given
20 fiscal incentives.

21 These incentives shall include the tax-free importation of all computer
22 hardware, software, peripherals and documentary materials. However, these
23 incentives shall be limited to imports that are intended for the schools. These
24 incentives shall last for a period of not more than ten years from the effectivity of
25 this Act.

26 The Board shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for the
27 availment of the incentives described herein.

28 *Sec. 10. Phased Implementation.* – The computer education program
29 shall be implemented in phases to ensure that program and infrastructure

1 requirement shall be met, to prepare the private sector for the demand for
2 computer schools and equipment, and to prime-up the local demand for
3 computer-literate workers.

4 The implementation shall be done in accordance with the following
5 objectives:

6 (a) the graduation, one year from the effectivity of this Act, of a
7 corps of high-school students who can manipulate the most popular
8 computer application programs in the areas of word processing, database
9 encoding and spreadsheets;

10 (b) the graduation, three years from the effectivity of this Act, of
11 a corps of high school students who are not only literate in the applications
12 described in paragraph (a) herein, but also in basic programming and
13 system analysis; and

14 (c) the immediate use of computer-aided education which will
15 complement the academic instructions in math, science and logic.

16 Sec. 11. *Community Linkages.* - Other software and computer
17 programming may be taught by the schools and service providers under a
18 community link-up system whereby additional training on the use of special
19 software can be paid for by interested business or manufacturing firms in the
20 community. The business community will also be encouraged to expand and
21 update their manufacturing procedures to achieve efficiency through
22 computerization or computer-controlled processes.

23 Sec. 12. *Budget and Funding.* - An initial budget of One Hundred Million
24 Pesos (P100,000,000,00) to be disbursed from the earnings of the lotteries
25 conducted by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office is hereby appropriated
26 for the payment of the services to be provided under Sections 4 and 5 of this Act
27 as well as for the expenses related to the establishment and operation of the
28 Board. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of this
29 Act shall be included in the yearly General Appropriations Act.

1 The administrative expenses related to the implementation of this Act shall
2 not be more than three percent (3%) of the annual appropriations for this
3 Computer Education Program.

4 Sec. 13. *Penalties.* - Any person found guilty of violating the provisions
5 of Section 5 hereof shall be meted the following penalties:

6 a) The student shall pay the full cost of tuition, with interest
7 thereon. The payment may be in cash, or in its equivalent in terms of
8 community service.

9 b) The accreditation of the service providers found guilty of
10 padding their enrollment figures, or for knowingly permitting a student to
11 violate the provisions of Section 5 hereof shall be suspended, for the first
12 offense; and cancelled for the second offense, without prejudice to the
13 payment of twice the amount of reimbursement resulting from the padded
14 enrollment as fine.

15 Sec. 14. *Rules and Regulations.* - Within forty five (45) days from the
16 effectivity of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and
17 regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

18 Sec. 15. *Separability Clause.* - In the event that any provisions of this
19 Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be
20 affected by such declaration.

21 Sec. 16. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
22 regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
23 modified accordingly.

24 Sec. 17. *Effectivity Clause.* - This law shall take effect fifteen (15) days
25 after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,