

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



'04 JUN 30 P7:16

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: *Julie*

S. No. 558

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 14, Section 1, provides that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

In order to prepare our nation's youth for the challenges of the future, as well as to keep our nation competitive in a global economy, every elementary, secondary, and tertiary school in the Philippines should be equipped with the best and most up-to-date library resources, certified library media specialists, access to advanced technology, and instruction on the use of library and information resources;

To comply with the constitutional mandate and to meet the challenges in education, this bill proposes to: (1) establish, within each of the Bureaus of Elementary Education, Secondary Education and Higher Education, a Division of School Library Media Services, that will provide information and leadership to school library media programs and personnel nationwide; (2) provide continued funding for public elementary, secondary, and tertiary school library media program improvement, equity, innovation, and technological advancement; (3) establish a partnership program for elementary, secondary, and tertiary school teachers and school library media specialists, who will jointly design resource and curriculum-based instructional activities, that provide opportunities for students to access a broad diversity of resources and information, and other languages and cultures, including materials that will encourage understanding; and (4) establish a partnership program for encouraging uses of technology and the sharing of information and access to resources by elementary and secondary school students, school library media specialists, and teachers.

MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, AND TERTIARY
SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGY ENRICHMENT,
TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Elementary, Secondary and Tertiary School Library Media Services Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is a policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act the term:

- (1) "Director" means the Director of the Division of Elementary, Secondary and Tertiary School Library Media Service established under this Act;
- (2) "Local Educational Agency" refers to a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for public elementary, secondary or tertiary school in a province, city or municipality;
- (3) "National Educational Agency" refers to the officer or agency primarily responsible for the national supervision of public elementary, secondary and tertiary schools;
- (4) "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of Education, culture and sports;
- (5) "Division of Elementary School Library Media Services" refers to the Division established for the purposes of this Act under the Bureau of Elementary Education;

(6) "Division of Secondary School Library Media Services" refers to the Division established for the purposes of this Act under the Bureau of Secondary Education; and

(7) "Division of Tertiary School Library Media Services" refers to the Division established for the purposes of this Act under the Bureau of Higher Education.

SECTION 4. Establishment and Functions of the Division of Elementary, Secondary and Tertiary School Library Media Services. -

(a) DIVISION - There is established within each of the Bureaus of Elementary, Secondary Education and higher Education, a Division of School Library Media Services to be administered by a Director of such Division.

(b) FUNCTIONS - The Division of School Library Media Services shall --

(1) Provide information and leadership to elementary, secondary and tertiary school library media specialists, teachers, and school administrators in order to encourage improvement of educational programs, train library, use advanced technology, and develop library resources that will encourage students to acquire skills in other languages; and

(2) Monitor and administer --

(A) The grant programs for elementary, secondary and tertiary school library media center resource development;

(B) Elementary, secondary and tertiary school library media specialist and teacher partnership grants for innovative education; and

(C) Grants for uses of technology in the classroom that are linked to the library media center.

SECTION 5. Elementary, Secondary and Tertiary School Library Media Program. -

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM -- The Director shall award grants from allocations under subsection (b) to provinces for the acquisition of school library media resources for the use of student library media specialists, and teachers in public elementary, secondary and tertiary schools.

(b) ALLOCATION TO PROVINCES - From the amount appropriated pursuant to the authority of subsection (e) in each fiscal year, the Director shall allocate to each province having an approved plan under subsection (c) an amount which bears the same relationship to such funds as the amount such province received for education purposes.

(c) PROVINCIAL PLANS - In order for a province to receive an allocation of funds under subsection (b) for any fiscal year such province shall have in effect for such fiscal year a provincial plan. Such plan shall --

(1) Designate the national educational agency as the agency responsible for the administration and supervision of the program described in this section; and

(2) Set forth a program under which funds paid to the province from its allocation under subsection (b) will be expended solely for --

(A) Acquisition of school library media resources including foreign language resources for the use of students, school library media specialist and teachers in elementary, secondary and tertiary school; and

(B) Administration of the provincial plan, including development and revision of standards relating to school library media resources except that the amount used for administration of the provincial plan in any fiscal year shall not exceed 5 percent of the amount allocated to such province under subsection (b) for such fiscal year; and

(3) Set forth the criteria to be used in allocating funds for school library media resources among the local educational agencies of the province, which allotment shall take into consideration the relative need of the students, school media specialist, and teachers to be served.

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF ALLOCATION TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES --

(1) DISTRIBUTION RULE - From the funds allocated to a province under subsection (b) in each fiscal year, such province shall distribute not less than 95 percent of such funds in such year to local educational agencies within such province according to the relative enrolment of students in public elementary, secondary and tertiary schools within the school districts of such province, adjusted to provide higher per-pupil allotments to local educational agencies that have the greatest number or percentages of students whose education imposes a higher than average cost per child such as those students --

(A) Living in areas with high concentrations of low-income families;

(B) From low-income families; and

(C) Living in sparsely populated areas.

(2) CALCULATION OF ENROLLMENT - The calculation of relative enrolments under paragraph (1) shall be made on the basis of the total number of students enrolled in public schools in the province.

SECTION 6. Establishment of the Scholl Library Media Specialist and Teacher Partnerships for Instructional innovation Program. - The Director shall award grants for projects that --

(1) Encourage collaboration between public elementary, secondary and tertiary school library media specialists and teacher in order to develop units of instruction that enable elementary, secondary and tertiary school students to use a variety of information resources; and

(2) Expand students' information-gathering abilities and cognitive skills of selection, analysis, evaluation and application.

SECTION 7. Establishment of the Uses of Technology in the Classroom Program. - The Program established -

(1) IN GENERAL - The Director shall award grants to encourage collaborative elementary, secondary and tertiary school library media specialist and teacher programs designed to --

(A) Expand the use of computers and computer networks in the curriculum; and

(B) Enable elementary and secondary school library media centers to access information from computerized databases.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to assure the smooth and efficient implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. Construction, - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to interfere with State and local initiative and responsibility in the conduct and support of school library media services, the administration of school library media centers or the selection of personnel or library books and materials.

SECTION 10. Supplementation. - Funds provided under this Act shall be used so as to supplement and not supplant other national or local funds available to carry out the activities and services assisted under this Act.

SECTION 11. Appropriations. - To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sum as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the sum necessary for the continuous operation of the program shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

SECTION 12. Separability Clause. - If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional the remainder of the law or the provision shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.