

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session

Office of the Secretary

15 JAN 20 P1 58

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2574

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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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

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.

However, there is a need to upgrade our learning system such that every learning and reading center will employ the latest computer and electronic library technology in order to best serve our fellowmen.

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

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of RA 7743 is hereby amended to read as  
follows:

"Section 2. *Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading  
Centers.* - The National Library in coordination with the  
Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)  
shall undertake the establishment of additional public  
libraries to serve all congressional districts, cities and  
municipalities in the Philippines and reading centers in  
every barangay except in cities or municipalities where  
there are existing public libraries or in barangays where  
there are existing public libraries or in barangays where  
there are existing reading centers: *Provided*, That the  
establishment program of the National Library BASED ON  
THE LATEST COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC LIBRARY  
TECHNOLOGY in coordination with the development  
council of each city or municipality and in the case of the  
barangay reading centers, in coordination with the  
respective barangay councils: *Provided, further*, That  
where these public libraries and reading centers already  
exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade the  
facilities thereof. [...] WITH COMPLETE STANDARD SETS  
OF BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS AS PROVIDED  
UNDER SEC. 3 OF THIS ACT AS WELL AS THE  
LATEST ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM USING  
COMPUTERS FOR STORING, CATALOGING, AND  
FILING OF DATA AND MATERIALS: *PROVIDED*,  
*FINALLY*, THAT BY THE YEAR 2015, ALL THE CITIES  
AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE

1 PROVIDED WITH ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED  
2 LIBRARY SYSTEM.”  
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5 **SEC. 2.** Section 7 of RA 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:  
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7 “Section 7. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to  
8 carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the  
9 General Appropriations Act of the year following its  
10 enactment into law [and for the next five (5) years:  
11 thereafter this local government units shall undertake the  
12 maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while  
13 the National Library shall continue to provide reading  
14 materials and supplies to the said libraries and reading  
15 centers]. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDS NECESSARY  
16 FOR THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO BE  
17 IMPLEMENTED, THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL  
18 LIBRARY SHALL BE INCREASED IN THE AMOUNT OF  
19 FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P500,000,000.00)  
20 PER YEAR UNTIL ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN  
21 THE PHILIPPINES ARE PROVIDED AND HAVE  
22 ACCESS TO FULL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY  
23 FACILITIES.”  
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25 **SEC. 3. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
26 regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed  
27 or modified accordingly.  
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30 **SEC. 4. Effectivity.** This Act take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
31 complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
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*Approved,*