

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
S.B. No. 921

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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 IT, 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. Hence, this bill.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

STORING, CATALOGING, AND FILING OF DATA AND MATERIALS: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT BY THE YEAR 2005, ALL THE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM.

SECTION 2. Section 7 of RA 7748 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

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– All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,