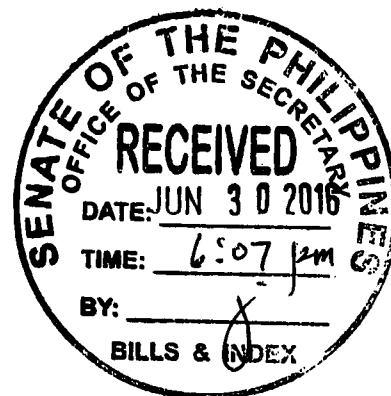


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE
S.B. No. 190



INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM IN
ALL STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES IN THE COUNTRY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the Wireless Internet Access Program in all state universities and colleges in the country and appropriating funds therefor.

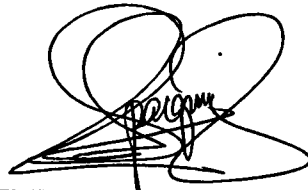
Section 1, Articles XIV of the 1987 Constitution states: *“The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.”*

Filipinos have always placed a high value on quality education. However, “high quality education” usually refers to better learning facilities and expensive tuition fees. Being so, high quality education is deemed accessible only to those with financial means and who are enrolled mostly in private learning institutions. Public schools, including state universities and colleges (SUCs) where poor but deserving Filipino students go, often lag behind private counterparts in providing their students and teachers technology driven equipment that could increase their capacity to achieve quality education. Hence, students in SUCs who are competitive intellectually become disadvantaged when it comes to access to relevant information due to lack of facilities, one of which is wireless internet connection within the campus. Students who cannot afford to subscribe to internet plans resort to spending time in places that offer free wireless internet such as coffee shops, restaurants and internet cafes instead of staying in school.

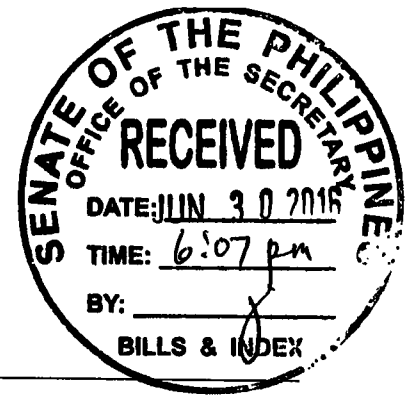
This student behavior is understandable given the hunger for knowledge that permeates our society nowadays. The emergence of information technology and globalization has dramatically changed human behavior. This has led to an information revolution that exposed people to tremendous amounts of sophisticated knowledge. Compared to a few decades ago, the world now runs via information highways and access to this network of information has never been as important. All sectors demand higher levels of skills in all aspects of life, such as in the school, the workplace and business. The old methods that guided education in previous decades have become obsolete. To excel, an individual now has to be properly abreast of the advanced and complex methods of data gathering, processing and reporting offered by the World Wide Web.

Through this proposed measure, I am certain that there will be substantial improvements in the performance of students in SUCs. In an article published on the Philippine Daily Inquirer in November 2011, Secretary Armin Luistro of the Department of Education stated that, *“it is not enough that we merely continue building classrooms and toilets. The real revolution in education which has long-term effects can only be done through information technology.”*

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO', is written over a large, stylized circular scribble.

EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO



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

1
2 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Wireless Internet (WI)*
3 *Access Act.*”

4
5 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to protect
6 and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate
7 steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, the State shall establish the
8 Wireless Internet Access Program in all state universities and colleges throughout the country
9 by providing wireless internet connection facilities, training personnel about applications and
10 developing a system for its effective implementation.

11
12 **SEC. 3. *Wireless Internet Access Program.*** – There shall be
13 established the Wireless Internet Access Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, in
14 all state universities and colleges (SUCs) throughout the country. The Information and
15 Communications technology Office (ICTO) under the Department of Science and
16 Technology (DOST) shall formulate, establish and maintain the Program to provide wireless
17 internet access to students, faculty members and other non-teaching personnel in the SUCs
18 and to ensure that the connectivity requirements of the SUCs and to ensure that the
19 connectivity requirements of the SUCs are met in an efficient and effective manner.

20
21 **SEC. 4. *Objectives.*** – The Program shall have the following objectives:

22
23 a) Provide a network for a reliable wireless internet connection and access to
24 students, faculty members and non-teaching personnel in all SUCs which shall promote easy
25 access to information and services relevant to education;

26
27 b) Improve learning techniques through cost-efficient and productivity-enhancing
28 methods with the use of the wireless internet;

29
30 c) Modernize the delivery of information to the students through the use and
31 application of information and communications technology;

- 1 d) Upgrade the capabilities of SUCs relevant to valuable educational materials;
2 and
3
- 4 e) Make the SUCs technologically competitive and at par with other educational
5 institutions around the world.
6

7 **SEC. 5. Program Director.** – Prior to the implementation of this Act on
8 the academic year immediately after its approval, all SUCs shall each appoint a Program
9 Director who shall be the lead person in charge of all activities necessary for the
10 determination, implementation and management of the Program in their respective campuses.
11 The Program Director shall be an expert in the field of information and communications
12 technology, particularly, on wireless internet access administration.
13

14 **SEC. 6. Duties and Functions.** – The Program Director shall exercise
15 the following duties and functions:
16

17 a) Execute and administer the plans and projects for the realization of the
18 objectives set forth in this Act;
19

20 b) Direct and supervise the operation and internal administration of the Program
21 and, for this purpose, delegate some of the powers and duties to appropriate subordinate
22 personnel;
23

24 c) Select and, in coordination with their respective SUCs and the Department fo
25 Budget and Management, fix the number and compensation of personnel necessary to
26 implement the provisions of this Act, subject to civil service laws, rules and regulations;
27

28 d) Receive donations, grants or any form of aid from local or foreign donors
29 relative to the program, ensure that said donations, grants or aids are used for their intended
30 purpose, make a report and submit the same to the proper SUC authorities;
31

32 e) Coordinate closely with the ICTO regarding the training of necessary
33 personnel, improvement of the program design and other related matters that require the
34 expertise of the ICTO; and
35

36 f) Perform such other duties and functions that are proper or necessary to carry
37 out the purposes of this Act.
38

39 **SEC. 7. Access.** – All students, faculty members and non-teaching
40 personnel of all SUCs in the country shall be allowed access to a wireless internet connection
41 within the premises of their respective universities or colleges. For purposes of securing and
42 unauthorized use of the free wireless internet connection, restrictions with regard to its use
43 shall be imposed in the form of passwords and other similar mechanisms, which shall be
44 readily provided to the student, faculty member or non-teaching personnel upon request.

1 **SEC. 8.** **Places of Access.** – All SUCs shall ensure that access to the
2 wireless internet connection is available at common areas such as, but not limited to,
3 classrooms, libraries, auditoriums, main lobbies, student lounges, and faculty and
4 administrative offices of each distinct and separate publicly accessible building within the
5 premises of the university or college.
6

7 **SEC. 9.** **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)
8 days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Science and Technology shall, in
9 coordination with the Chairperson of the Information and Communications Technology
10 Office, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
11 this Act.
12

13 **SEC. 10.** **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the effective
14 implementation of this Act is hereby charged from the current appropriations for the
15 Department of Science and Technology. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the
16 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
17 Act.
18

19 **SEC. 11.** **Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances,
20 rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
21 modified accordingly.
22

23 **SEC. 12.** **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
25 circulation.
26

27 Approved,