

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

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SENATE  
S. B. No. **1421**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution, Article 2 provides:

Section 17. The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

Technology in the schools is a central component of preparing students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Equipping schools with technology is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity.

Technology in the classroom improves students' mastery of basic skills, test scores, writing, and engagement in school. With these gains come decreases in dropout rates and decreases in attendance and discipline problems.

Not enough students have access to computers, distance learning, and telecommunications technologies. In fact, many public schools do not have any computers, while few have older models that do not have the power to perform advanced functions, such as those involving video and the Internet.

The purpose of this bill is to establish educational technology clearinghouses to facilitate the donation of surplus equipment and technology to schools and libraries from governmental agencies, businesses, and other private entities.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO *df*



(A) In cooperation with regional program to support a clearinghouse that facilitates the transfer of surplus equipment and technology to schools and libraries from governmental agencies, businesses, and other private entities;

(B) Disseminate information to regional educational agencies about the *availability and procurement of the equipment and technology* through the clearinghouse;

(C) Disseminate information to the public about activities assisted under this Act, including information about the donations being accepted by the clearinghouse;

(D) Have in place a process or ensuring that surplus equipment and technology is distributed in a fair and equitable manner, with school districts with the greatest need for such equipment and technology receiving priority for donations under this Act;

(E) Provide technical assistance to a school or library to ensure the equipment and technology being donated is consistent with the short-term and long-term educational technology plans for the school or library, respectively;

(F) Use funds under this Act to upgrade equipment or technology only if the entity determines such upgrading meets the short-term and long-term educational plan of the school or library receiving the equipment or technology; and

(G) Ensure that the transfer of equipment and technology does not violate copyright, patents, or trademark laws.

SECTION 5. *Authorization of Appropriations.* - There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *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, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

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