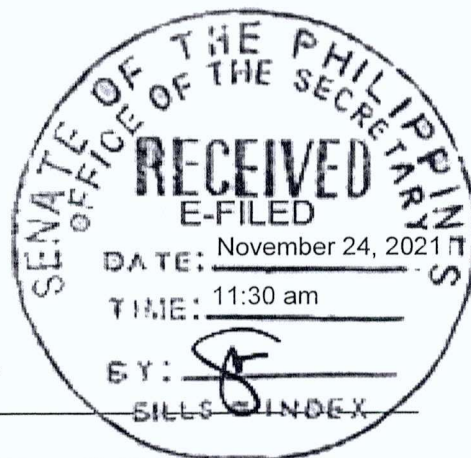


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)**

**SENATE
S.B. No. 2454**



Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE "ONE TABLET, ONE STUDENT" PROGRAM FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to significant and abrupt changes in learning. From the traditional face-to-face or in campus learning modality, there is a shift to blended learning or purely remote learning modality. The sudden shift to these digitally dependent learning models, implemented to mitigate the effects and protect students from the dreaded disease, exposed challenges to internet access and availability of computers or personal learning gadgets.

According to the Department of Education, there are approximately 27 million elementary and high school students currently enrolled in the current academic year. On the other hand, there are approximately 1.6 million enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges, based on the data given by the Commission on Higher Education. This staggering number of students who need tablets does not even include their teachers who are likewise in need of such devices.

According to the World Bank, the crisis has starkly highlighted the inequalities in digital access and that "business as usual" will not work for delivery of education to all children. To close the digital divides in education and leverage the power of technology to accelerate learning, reduce learning poverty, and support skills development a focus must be placed in bridging the gaps in: i) digital infrastructure (connectivity, devices and software); ii) human infrastructure (teacher capacity, student skills and parental support); and iii) logistical and administrative systems to deploy and maintain tech architecture¹.

In another World Bank Report on the Philippine Digital Economy (2020), the digital divide in the Philippines is large with nearly 60 percent of households not having access to internet, and unable to reap the benefits of digitalization. As a result, face-

¹ The World Bank Website, Digital Technologies in Education, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/edutech#1>

to face interactions and analog practices largely dominate in the Philippines, making social distancing economically costly².

In line with the State's mandate to provide quality education at all levels, this bill seeks to aid students enrolled in public schools and SUCs by giving them tablets or similar learning devices.

In view of the foregoing, the prompt passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

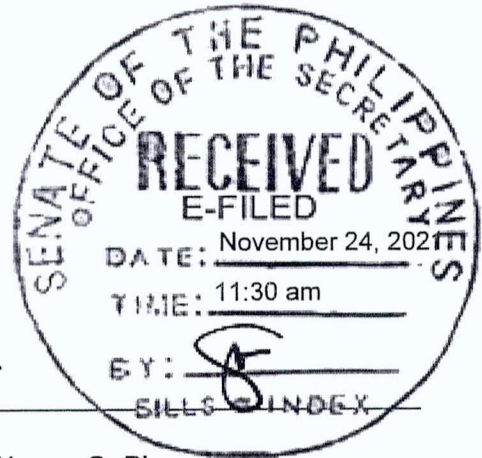
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ML Binay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

² The World Bank Website, Philippines Digital Economy Report 2020, <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/796871601650398190/pdf/Philippines-Digital-Economy-Report-2020-A-Better-Normal-Under-COVID-19-Digitalizing-the-Philippine-Economy-Now.pdf>

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1 **AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE "ONE TABLET, ONE STUDENT"**
2 **PROGRAM FOR ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STATE**
3 **UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND**
4 **FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
7 *Congress assembled:*

8
9 SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall also be known as the "One Tablet, One
10 Student Act"

11
12 SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall protect and promote the right of
13 all citizens to quality education at all levels. Further, the State shall take appropriate
14 measures to make education accessible to all particularly during the COVID-19
15 pandemic.

16
17 SEC. 3. One Tablet, One Student Program. - The One Tablet, One Student
18 program is hereby established to provide each public elementary and secondary
19 student as well students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges a tablet computer
20 ("tablet") each to enable them to effectively participate in online learning; Provided,
21 that students who already have their own personal learning gadgets shall be given
22 educational assistance in the form if an internet allowance to cover the cost of
23 connectivity.

24
25 SEC. 4. Implementing Agencies. - The Department of Education (DepEd) and
26 the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are hereby tasked to implement the One
27 Tablet, One Student program and shall:

- 28
29 1. develop a comprehensive system to determine the eligibility of students who
30 will qualify under the said program;
31 2. develop an efficient and expeditious distribution system; and,
32 3. formulate guidelines on usage, maintenance and accountability for the tablets.

33
34 SEC. 5. Appropriations. - An amount of two hundred billion pesos
35 (P200,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury

1 for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary
2 for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated in the succeeding General
3 Appropriations Act.
4

5 SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DepEd and CHED, in
6 coordination with the local government units through the Department of Interior and
7 Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Information and Communications
8 Technology (DICT), shall promulgate all the necessary rules and regulations for its
9 effective implementation not later than thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act.
10 The DepEd and CHED shall publish such rules and regulations once a week for two
11 (2) consecutive weeks in newspapers of general circulation.
12

13 SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
14 regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are
15 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
16

17 SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If any part, section or provision of this Act shall
18 be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision thereof shall be
19 affected thereby.
20

21 SEC. 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the
22 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers
23 of general circulation.

Approved,