

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'22 JUL -4 A8:02

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. No. 1

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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 pandemic brought about a modification in our educational system all over the country. Presently, while educational institutions are given the flexibility to adopt different modalities in delivering lessons and conducting classes, most of them utilize distance or online learning as face-to-face classes are still mostly suspended. As this mode of learning requires both a stable internet connection and a reliable gadget, this has thus made school requirements even more challenging to already financially distressed students.

According to a study done by International Data Corp. (IDC), tablet computers ("tablets") are the electronic devices that were chosen by the Philippine Local Government Units (LGUs) as the device to be acquired for their respective constituencies who are students currently enrolled. This is primarily because of the tablet's relatively lower cost compared to the prices of laptops and desktop computers. Moreover, tablets have the capacity to operate various educational applications and other educational productivity tools.¹ Based on reports, a number of LGUs with access

¹ <https://business.inquirer.net/332686/tablet-the-device-of-choice-of-lgus-racing-to-ease-remote-learning-dilemma>

to the internet have also shifted from self-learning modules (SLMs), or printed learning modality, to online learning to lessen the burden of printing numerous modules for students by the schoolteachers.²

Despite the effort of LGUs, the private sector and other concerned parties to provide tablets for all students, there is still an overwhelming number of students who do not have gadgets and have difficulties keeping up with the academic requirements. In extreme cases, this has posed even more serious problems on students' mental health.

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

This proposed measure, therefore, aims to provide assistance to students by giving them tablets, or similar learning devices, to help them cope with the current challenges in line with the national government's thrust to provide quality education for all Filipino students.

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



LOREN LEGARDA

² <https://www.idc.com/gctdoc.jsp?containerId=prAP48289121>

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “One Tablet, One Student
2 Act of 2022.”

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall protect and promote the right of all
4 citizens to quality education at all levels. Further, the State shall take appropriate
5 measures to make education accessible to all particularly in the midst of the ongoing
6 COVID-19 pandemic.

7 Sec. 3. *One Tablet, One Student Program.* – The One Tablet, One Student program
8 is hereby established to provide each public elementary and secondary student as well
9 as students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) a tablet computer
10 (“tablet”) each to enable them to effectively participate in online learning. Provided,
11 that students who already have their own personal learning gadgets shall be given
12 educational assistance in the form of an internet allowance to cover the cost of
13 connectivity.

14 Sec. 4. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the
15 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are hereby tasked to implement the One
16 Tablet, One Student Program and shall:

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

5 Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* – An amount of Two Hundred Billion Pesos (Php
6 200,000,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National
7 Treasury for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be
8 necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated in the succeeding
9 General Appropriations Act.

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

17 Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
18 regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
19 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

20 Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, Sec., or provision of this Act shall be
21 held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, Sec. or provision thereof shall be
22 affected thereby.

23 Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
24 publication either in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
25 circulation.

Approved,