

SENATE
S. No. 874

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN "ADOPT-A-LIBRARY" PROGRAM, PROVIDING
INCENTIVES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels." This Constitutional provision does not only encompass the formal education system, but also "non-formal" educational system. This is embodied in Section 5 of the same Article, which provides that "[the State shall] encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs."

Recognition of non-formal types of education is recognized in R.A. No. 9155, or the *Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001* which provides in its Declaration of Policy that "Education shall also include alternative learning systems for out-of-school youth and adult learners." R.A. No. 9155 defines "alternative learning system" as "a parallel learning system to provide a viable alternative to the existing formal education instruction. It encompasses both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills"

In recent years, the Philippines has started to embrace alternative modes of education. For example, Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Leonor Briones stated that expanding the alternative learning system (ALS) would be one of her main advocacies during her tenure.

This measure seeks to ride this recent wave of reforms by introducing an "Adopt-a-Library" program. It aims to encourage self-learning by constructing libraries across different local government units, public elementary and secondary schools, and State Universities and Colleges. These libraries will be provided with educational materials such as but not limited to encyclopaedias, dictionaries, maps and globes. The libraries shall also be provided with at least five (5) computers and a working internet connection.

This measure seeks to fully utilize the efficiency of the private sector in constructing these libraries. Private entities shall be encouraged to sign memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned authorities to construct and maintain libraries. In exchange, all expenses made for the construction of libraries and provision of educational materials and equipment under this Act shall be exempt from the donor's tax. Furthermore, the adopting company or enterprise shall be entitled to have its name published beneath the name of the school after words indicating that the school is under the "Adopt-a-Library Program".

Speedy approval of this measure is eagerly sought.



GRACE POE



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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN "ADOPT-A-LIBRARY" PROGRAM, PROVIDING
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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 Section. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Adopt-a-Library Act*
2 *of 2022.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes right of all citizens to
4 quality education at all levels and shall endeavour towards the realization of this
5 right. The State further recognizes the indispensable role of the private sector in
6 augmenting the government's efforts to provide an improved quality of life for all
7 and shall provide incentives to mobilize private resources for the purpose.

8 Sec. 3. *Adopt-a-Library Program.* – There is hereby established the "*Adopt-a-*
9 *Library Program*", hereby referred to as "the Program", which will allow the private
10 sector to assist a local government unit, public elementary or secondary school, or
11 State University or College (SUC) in establishing and maintaining libraries within
12 their respective jurisdiction.

13 Sec. 4. *Minimum Standard for Libraries.* – The libraries established under the
14 Program shall be inclusive of educational materials such as but not limited to
15 encyclopaedias, dictionaries, maps and globes. The libraries shall also be provided
16 with at least five (5) computers and a working internet connection.

17 Sec. 5. *Procedure.* – A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) specifying the
18 details of the adoption shall be entered into between the private entity and the
19 concerned authority: *Provided,* That such MOA shall be subject to review and

1 approval of the concerned authority: *Provided*, further, That the agreement shall last
2 for at least two (2) years with the possibility of extension. For the purposes of this
3 Act, "concerned authority" shall refer to the Mayor, school superintendent, or
4 president of the State University or College where the library under this program is
5 established.

6 Sec. 6. *Incentives.* – All expenses made for the construction of libraries and
7 provision of educational materials and equipment under this Act shall be exempt
8 from the donor's tax. Furthermore, the adopting company or enterprise shall be
9 entitled to have its name published beneath the name of the school after words
10 indicating that the school is under the "*Adopt-a-Library Program*".

11 Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from
12 this Act's effectivity, the Department of Education, in coordination with the
13 Department of Interior and Local Government, shall issue the implementing rules
14 and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

15 Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue to be in full
17 force and effect.

18 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and
19 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
20 accordingly.

21 Sec. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
22 its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,