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

7 SEP 13

RECEIVED BY

SENATE

S. No. 1582

Introduced by Senator JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Over the past few years, computers have become a common thread that ties together our education, work and home life. We live in a world where technology is rapidly increasing, and new discoveries are being made everyday. With computers touching nearly every facet of our lives, it is absolutely critical that computer education be available at all levels.

It is best to start them young. Although traditional teaching styles are still very effective and important to the development of a child into a successful student, enhanced computer literacy enables children to practice and develop a broader range of skills. It can help them learn, for example, about letters, numbers, shapes, colors, and rhythm. Good software can also help children develop their understanding of cause and effect, higher order problem solving, procedural thinking, and creative expression. As they master computers, children build positive attitudes toward technology that will pay dividends for the rest of their lives.

Computer technology when utilized correctly is an effective tool in enhancing the students' learning with the end view of having better educated and globally competitive labor force.

Hence, the inclusion of computer education as a separate subject at the grade school and high school level in all public and private educational institutions nationwide is no longer considered an option but rather a necessity long been deferred.

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

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING COMPULSORY COMPUTER EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY AND HIGHSCHOOL LEVELS THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF APPROPRIATE COMPUTER SUBJECTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S ELEMENTARY AND HIGHSCHOOL CURRICULUM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title – This Act shall be known as the "Computer Education Act of 2007."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy – It is a declared policy of the State to establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society. For these reasons, it is hereby declared as State policy to include basic and advance computer subjects as part of the curriculum for elementary and secondary education, respectively.

Sec. 3. Compulsory Computer Education in the Elementary and High School Level. - There shall be a separate subject on basic computer for grade school pupils, and advance computer for high school students to be included in the curriculum of both public and private schools nationwide.

Sec. 4. Determination and Development of Subject Content – Prior to the formal implementation of this Act on the academic year immediately after its approval, the Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary shall appoint a Head Subject Specialist who shall be the lead person in coordinating all activities necessary for the determination, development and implementation of the subject in the primary and

secondary level. The Head Subject Specialist must be a recognized expert in the field of computer education and information technology and a distinguished educator as well.

The Head Subject Specialist shall conduct a multi-sectoral consultation with the stakeholders from public and private high schools, concerned government agencies, and the public at large for the purpose of determining the appropriate content and scope of the computer subject to be included in the curriculum.

Provided, that such subject shall be attuned to the current national policy on computer literacy, information technology and global competitiveness.

Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary of the Department of Education shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the immediate and proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. Computer Allocation – Required computers for release shall be proportionally distributed per legislative district based on their share of student enrolment relative to the total population.

Sec. 7. Funding – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of the funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, funds for its operations shall be included in the regular appropriations of the Department of Education.

Sec. 8. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 10. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,