

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES) S.S
Third Regular Session)

6 SEP 27 1995

SENATE
S. No. 2476

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Introduced by Senator Lacson

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the creation of what is now known as the Department of Education (DepEd), the procurement of textbooks for elementary and secondary public schools has been highly centralized and was entrusted to one single office, i.e. The Property and Procurement Division.

This highly centralized procurement of books has resulted in the delay of delivery of books to the provinces, cities or municipalities, particularly those in the far-flung areas. Also, there are reports that books and other educational materials were left stocked in warehouses to deteriorate instead of being used by our elementary and secondary students. Moreover, centralized procurement has resulted in the purchase of books not adaptable or suited to the region or province.

It must be stressed that a centralized procurement of textbooks and other educational materials is highly susceptible to abuse by scrupulous publishers. This in turn could result in a monopoly to the detriment of small and medium publishers particularly those in the regions, provinces, cities or municipalities.

R.A. No. 8047 or the *Book Publishing Industry Act* was enacted on June 7, 1995. This law included the provisions on the regionalization of the printing of public, elementary and secondary school textbooks. Unfortunately, eleven (11) years after the passage of the law, the DepEd failed to implement the same for reasons of lack of clear enabling law and mechanisms.

Along this light, this bill seeks among others to:

- a) Decentralize the textbook procurement program of the DepEd by establishing a Regional Textbook Procurement Services Unit (RTPSU) in every regional

office of the Department including the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

- b) The RTPSU shall test, evaluate, select and approve the manuscripts or books to be submitted by publishers for multiple adoptions.
- c) Decentralization of Textbook Printing

With the enactment of this bill it is envisioned that the desired ratio of 1:1 or 1 book per student per subject area be achieved, and that books as well as other required instructional materials would reach the elementary and secondary students on time.

Finally, with the immediate enactment of this bill, it is also hoped that the required textbooks would not only be delivered without delay but will likewise meet the standard of quality required and pertinent to each region.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is urgently sought.


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator

SECRETARY

SEP 27 11:00

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES) S.S
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AN ACT
DECENTRALIZING THE TEXTBOOK PROCUREMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) CREATING A REGIONAL TEXTBOOK PROCUREMENT SERVICES UNIT (RTPSU) IN ALL REGIONAL OFFICES INCLUDING THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM) AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF R.A. NO. 8047 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT

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

SECTION 1. *Decentralization of the Textbook Procurement Program.* – The Textbook Procurement Program of the Department of Education (DepEd) shall be decentralized by establishing a Regional Textbook Procurement Services Unit (RTPSU) in every regional office of the Department including the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

SEC. 2. *Duties and Responsibilities.* – The RTPSU shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- a) Preparing the minimum learning competencies, and/or prototypes and other specifications for the book and/or manuscript called for;
- b) Testing, evaluating, selecting and approving the manuscript or books to be submitted by publishers for multiple adoption;
- c) Providing assistance in the distribution of textbooks to the public school systems; and

- d) Promulgating with the participation and assistance of the National Book Development Board (NBDB) rules and regulations for the private book publisher in the call, testing evaluation, selection, approval, as well as production specification and acquisition of public school textbooks.

SEC. 3. *Decentralization of Textbook Printing.* – The printing of public elementary and secondary textbooks shall be done on a regional basis and whenever economically feasible by congressional district or province.

SEC. 4. *Multiple Adoption.* – The DepEd shall ensure that the policy of multiple adoption of textbooks and other instructional materials be implemented to encourage the free flow of information and the deregulation of book publishing.

SEC. 5. *Manpower Complement.* – The RTPSU shall be headed by the chief of the Property and Procurement Division who shall perform this function in a concurrent capacity, and shall be under the direct supervision of the Regional Director. The members of the RTPSU shall be taken from other division offices, if necessary. Personnel from the Central Office PPD (CO-PPD) may be detailed to the RTPSUs during the transition period.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of Education and the Regional Secretary of Education of the ARMM shall immediately include in their respective agency's programs the establishment and operation of the RTPSUs, the initial funding of which shall be charged against their current year's appropriations and thereafter in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Function of the Office of the Secretary of the DepEd.* – The Office of the Secretary of the DepEd shall monitor the operation of the RTPSUs with respect to the quality of services of participating private publishers as well as the utilization of funds allocated to the respective RTPSUs.

SEC. 8. *Penal Clause* – Any person who willfully violates or cause the violation of any provision of this Act shall, upon conviction, be penalized with a fine of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) and/or imprisonment of not less than three months but not more than one year or both depending upon the discretion of the court.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* Section of 10 R.A. No. 8047, otherwise known as the "Book Publishing Industry Development Act" is hereby repealed. All other laws, decrees,

rules, regulatory and other administrative issuances or provisions thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation

Approved,