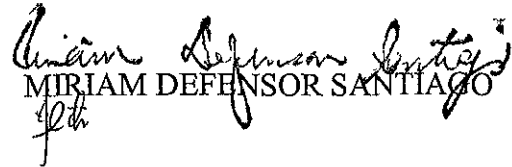


Considering the need to educate citizens about new knowledge and information, it is necessary to enact a law that will require the establishment of one (1) public library for every barangay. This will ensure that constituents from the most basic unit of society will have ready access to a wide array of information which is necessary for their education.

This Act aims to provide for the establishment of one public library for every barangay, based on the number of its constituents.*


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

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

7 OCT -2 2011

SENATE
S. No. 1674

RECEIVED BY



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 FOR EVERY BARANGAY

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Barangay Public Library Act
7 of 2007.”

8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is a policy of the State to enhance and promote
9 education and improvement of literacy among its citizens; to promote the moral and intellectual
10 well-being of the people; and recognize the vital role of education and information dissemination
11 in nation-building by establishing a public library in every barangay. Pursuant to this policy, the
12 State shall provide for the establishment of one public library for every barangay.

13 SECTION 3. *Establishment of a Public Library in Every Barangay.* – The chairman of
14 every barangay shall coordinate with the provincial or city officer of the Department of
15 Education (DepEd) to make a feasibility study for the establishment of one public library for
16 every barangay.

17 SECTION 4. *Role of the Department of Education.* – The local office of the DepEd
18 shall be responsible for providing the standard set of reference books and other materials such as
19 but not limited to encyclopedias, dictionaries, maps and globes to every barangay public library.
20 The DepEd shall to supply the public libraries with the other books, non-book materials,
21 equipment supplies and other appropriate and relevant reference and reading materials taking
22 into consideration the needs of the community concerned.

1 SECTION 5. *Role of Barangay Officials.* – The barangay officials shall designate one
2 (1) librarian to be responsible for the management of the barangay public librarian. The local
3 barangay officials shall also coordinate yearly with the local office of the DepEd for updating the
4 materials provided in the barangay public libraries.

5 SECTION 6. *Computers in Barangay Public Libraries.* – Aside from books and other
6 materials, every barangay public library shall have at least two (2) units of computer.

7 SECTION 7. *Site for Barangay Libraries.* – The barangay chairman shall ensure the
8 presence of a suitable location to be the site of the public library. As much as possible the public
9 library shall be situated at the centre of the barangay which is the place most accessible to the
10 public, especially to students.

11 SECTION 8. *Period of Implementation.* – Within one hundred twenty (120) days from
12 the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and the local barangay officials, in coordination with the
13 Department of Public Works and Highways, shall prepare the feasibility studies for the
14 establishment of barangay public libraries.

15 SECTION 9. *Functions of the Barangay Public Libraries.* – The barangay public
16 libraries shall have the following functions:

- 17 (A) To make available to the members of the community reading materials of wide array
18 including reading materials prescribed by the DepEd and national newspapers of
19 general circulation and others;
- 20 (B) To make available to the members of the community copies of barangay ordinances;
- 21 (C) To be used as a venue for audio-visual presentations, seminars and lectures in the
22 community and other kinds of exhibitions and activities aimed at increasing the
23 literacy rate by government agencies, non-governmental organizations or private
24 entities in the dissemination of information of general interest; and
- 25 (D) To offer such other related services in the furtherance of this Act.

1 SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
2 this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment
3 into law, the local government units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries while the
4 DepEd shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the said libraries and reading
5 centers.

6 SECTION 11. *Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the approval of
7 this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the DILG and the Philippine Information Agency
8 (PIA), shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

9 SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
11 valid and subsisting.

12 SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
13 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent
14 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

15 SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

17 Approved,