

**SENATE**

S. No. 986

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

A finding by the Education Commission (EDCOM) reveals that twenty six percent (26%) of Filipinos are functionally illiterate. Baffling as this report indicates, there appears to be a compelling need to facilitate the delivery of reading materials to public elementary schools not only to supplement the knowledge obtained in classroom instructions but also to put the school children, students and teachers in the forefront of awareness of what is happening in the rest of the country, what are the issues of national character that affect the family, the school, the community and the person of the reader.

Reading *per se* stimulates the mind, but reading the proper news materials promotes knowledge and awareness of the information that can serve as a positive catalyst for intellectual growth, preparedness and personal enhancement.

Newspapers have the unique quality of providing a stimulus as well as impetus for development, spurs the readers to action as reaction makes one alert of his/her surroundings and can inspire participation in matters of national significance. It can also mean enjoyment or amusement and avoidance of dangers. It broadens one's perspective and encourages participatory governance.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of the bill is earnestly recommended.



**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator*

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**AN ACT**  
**TO SUBSIDIZE THE NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN THE COUNTRY**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "**Public School Newspaper Subscription Subsidy Act**".

**SEC. 2. Newspaper Subscription.** - Subject to certain requirements of this Act, the newspaper subscriptions of libraries of public schools all over the country shall be subsidized by the government in the amount equivalent to one-half (1/2) of the cost of the subscription of newspapers of national circulation.

**SEC. 3. Coverage.** - Only newspapers of national circulation as determined by the Department of Education (DepEd) and subscribed by public school libraries, can qualify for the subsidy provided for under this Act: *Provided*, That the subsidy shall be limited to only three (3) of such newspapers: *Provided, further*, That the amount of such subsidy shall be the equivalent of one-half (1/2%), of the cost of the subscription of newspapers of national circulation.

**SEC. 4. Appropriation.** - There shall be appropriated out of the budget of the Department of Education (DepEd) such sums as may be necessary to finance the

subsidy provided in this Act. Thereafter, such sums shall be appropriated in the general appropriations of the Department of Education.

**SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, mended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the other provisions or their application to other persons or circumstances not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

***Approved,***