

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

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SENATE  
S. No. 1916

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1, provides that the state shall protect and promote the right of all the citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

In order to prepare our nation's youth for the challenges of the future, as well as to keep our nation competitive in a global economy, every elementary, secondary, and tertiary school in the Philippines should be equipped with the best and most up-to-date library resources, certified library media specialists, access to advanced technology, and instruction on the use of library and information resources.

To comply with the constitutional mandate and to meet the challenges in education, this bill proposes to establish, within each of the Bureaus of Elementary Education, Secondary Education and Higher Education, a Division of School Library Media Services, that will provide information and leadership to school library media programs and personnel nationwide.<sup>1</sup>

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session

10 JUL 22 04:47

SENATE  
S. No. 1916

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT  
2 TO PROVIDE FOR ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, AND TERTIARY SCHOOL LIBRARY  
3 MEDIA RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT, TRAINING, AND  
4 IMPROVEMENT

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Elementary, Secondary, and  
6 Tertiary School Library Media Services Act.”

7 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is a policy of the State to protect and promote the  
8 right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such  
9 education accessible to all.

10 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -As used in this Act, the term:

11 (A) “Director” means the Director of the Division of Elementary, Secondary, and  
12 Tertiary School Library Media Services established under this Act;

13 (B) “Local Educational Agency” refers to a public board of education or other public  
14 authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control or direction of, or to  
15 perform a service function for public elementary, secondary or tertiary school in a province, city  
16 or municipality;

17 (C) “National Educational Agency” refers to the officer or agency primarily responsible  
18 for the national supervision of public elementary, secondary, and tertiary schools;

19 (D) “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of Education;

1 (E) "Division of Secondary School Library Media Services" refers to the Division  
2 established for the purposes of this Act under the Bureau of Elementary Education;

3 (F) "Division of Secondary School Library Media Services" refers to the Division  
4 established for the purposes of this Act under the Bureau of Secondary Education; and

5 (G) "Division of Tertiary School Library Media Services" refers to the Division  
6 established for the purposes of this Act under the Bureau of Higher Education.

7 SECTION 4. *Establishment and Functions of the Division of Elementary, Secondary, and*  
8 *Tertiary School Library Media Services.*

9 (A) *Division.* - There is established within each of the Bureaus of Elementary Education,  
10 Secondary Education, and Higher Education, a Division of School Library Media Services, to be  
11 administered by a Director of such Division.

12 (B) *Functions.* - The Division of School Library Media Services shall -

13 (1) Provide information and leadership to elementary, secondary, and tertiary school  
14 library media specialists, teachers, and school administrators in order to encourage improvement  
15 of educational programs, train library personnel, use advanced technology, and develop library  
16 resources, including resources that will encourage students to acquire skills in other languages;  
17 and

18 (2) Monitor and administer the grant programs for elementary, secondary, and tertiary  
19 school library media center resource development; elementary, secondary, and tertiary school  
20 library media specialist and teacher partnership grants for innovative education; and grants for  
21 uses of technology in the classroom that are linked to the library media center

22 SECTION 5. *Elementary, Secondary and Tertiary School Library Media Program.-*

23 (A) *Establishment of the Elementary, Secondary, and Tertiary School Library Media*  
24 *Resource Development Program.* - The Director shall award grants from all allocations to  
25 provinces for the acquisition of school library media resources for the use of students, library  
26 media specialists and teachers in public elementary, secondary and tertiary schools.

1 (B) *Allocation to Provinces.* - From the amount appropriated in each fiscal year, the  
2 Director shall allocate to each province having an approved plan an amount which bears the  
3 same relationships to such funds as the amount such province received for educational purposes.

4 (C) *Provincial Plans.* - In order for a province to receive an allocation of funds under  
5 paragraph (B) for any fiscal year such province shall have in effect for such fiscal year a  
6 provincial plan. Such plan shall -

7 (1) Designate the national educational agency as the agency responsible for the  
8 administration and supervision of the program described in this section; and

9 (2) Set forth a program under which funds paid to the province from its allocation  
10 under paragraph (B) will be expended solely for -

11 (a) Acquisition of school library media resources, including foreign  
12 language resources, for the use of students, school library media specialists and  
13 teachers in elementary, secondary and tertiary schools; and

14 (b) Administration of the provincial plan, including development and  
15 revision of standards relating to school library media resources, except that the  
16 amount used for administration of the provincial plan in any fiscal year shall not  
17 exceed five *per centum* (5%) of the amount allocated to such province under  
18 paragraph (B) for such fiscal year; and

19 (c) Set forth criteria to be used in allotting funds for school library media  
20 resources among the local educational agencies or the province, which allotment  
21 shall take into consideration the relative need of the students, school media  
22 specialists and teachers to be served.

23 (D) *Distribution of Allocation to Local Educational Agencies.* -

24 (1) *Distribution Rule.* - From the funds allocated to a province under paragraph  
25 (B) in each fiscal year, such province shall distribute not less than ninety five *per centum*  
26 (95%) of such funds in such fiscal year to local educational agencies within such  
27 province according to the relative enrollment of students in public elementary, secondary  
28 and tertiary schools within the school districts of such province, adjusted to provide

1 higher per-pupil allotments to local educational agencies that have the greatest number or  
2 percentages of students whose education imposes a higher than average costs per child,  
3 such as those students -

4 (a) Living in areas with high concentrations of low-income families;

5 (b) From low-income families; and

6 (c) Living in sparsely populated areas.

7 (2) *Calculation of Enrollment.* - The calculation of relative enrollments under  
8 subparagraph (1) shall be made on the basis of the total number of students enrolled in  
9 public schools in the province.

10 SECTION 6. *Establishment of the School Library Media Specialist and Teacher*  
11 *Partnerships for Instructional Innovation Program.* - The Director shall award grants to projects  
12 that -

13 (A) Encourage collaboration between public elementary, secondary, and tertiary school  
14 library media specialists and teachers in order to develop units of instruction that enable  
15 elementary, secondary and tertiary school students to use a variety of information resources; and

16 (B) Expand student's information-gathering abilities and cognitive skills of selection,  
17 analysis, evaluation and application.

18 SECTION 7. *Establishment of the Use of Technology in the Classroom Program.* -

19 (A) *In General.* - The Director shall award grants to encourage collaborative elementary,  
20 secondary and tertiary school library media specialist and teacher program assigned to -

21 (1) Expand the use of computers and computer networks in the curriculum; and

22 (2) Enable elementary and secondary school library media centers to access  
23 information from computerized databases.

24 (B) *Operative Agreements.* -The Director may enter into a cooperative agreements with  
25 appropriate non-profit agencies and organizations in carrying out this Section.

1           SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary shall promulgate the  
2 necessary rules and regulations to assure the smooth and efficient implementation of the  
3 provisions of this Act.

4           SECTION 9. *Construction.* - Nothing in this Act shall be construed to interfere with State  
5 and local initiative and responsibility in the conduct and support of school library media services,  
6 the administration of school library media centers, or the selection of personnel or library books  
7 and materials.

8           SECTION 10. *Supplementation.* - Funds provided under this Act shall be used so as to  
9 supplement and not supplant other national or local funds available to carry out the activities and  
10 services assisted under this Act.

11           SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* - TO carry out the provisions of this Act, such sum as may  
12 be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the  
13 sum necessary for the continuous operation of the program shall be included in the annual  
14 appropriation of the Department of Education.

15           SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or  
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision shall remain valid and subsisting.

17           SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
18 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
19 with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

20           SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
21 publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,