

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 26 10:13

SENATE
S.B.No. 1978

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV Section 1 of 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

For decades, the public school system has been suffering from a shortage of books. The problem was not only a shortage of funds but the massive corruption and inefficiency that have characterized government textbook procurements since the 1970s.

Years past, one textbook was being shared by every six pupils in grade school and by every eight students in high school. Today, because of stringent bidding procedures at the national level and a massive infusion of foreign funds, the Department of Education hopes that by the end of the school year, all students will each have a textbook in all five core subjects.

But problems remain at the local level. The government's textbook procurement program still has major kinks.

The book industry is one of those rather neglected sectors in our society; for all that everyone pays lip service to the importance of books for the development of an educated citizenry. The lack of book contributes largely to the weak educational system prevalent in the countryside.

We should recognize the importance of developing the students reading ability in our goal of improving their functional literacy skills. Reading is a vital skill that we must teach our students to be able to improve their learning skills.

In line of this, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE BOOKS FOR THE BARRIOS PROGRAM, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. *Title* – This Act shall be known as the “Books for the Barrios Act of 2010.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to give the Filipino youth, particularly in remote areas, the chance for upward mobility through education not only by listening but also by reading. Towards this end, all public schools and libraries in remote barangay shall provide with books under the Books for the Barrios Program.

SECTION 3. *Books for the Barrio's Program* – There shall be established, under the Department of Education, (Dep Ed), the Books for the Barrios Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program.

For this purpose, the Dep Ed is hereby authorized to create an office that will take charge of the program, which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Prepare a list of all public schools and libraries throughout the country and regularly update the same;
- (b) Formulate guidelines and standards for availing of the benefits under the Program;
- (c) Accept and issue receipts or donations of books, magazines and other educational materials for distribution to qualified schools and libraries;
- (d) Designate non-government organizations which may solicit book donations, or distribute book and other educational materials under its supervision;
- (e) Make an inventory every three (3) months of all the books and other educational materials;
- (f) Make an inventory every three (3) months of all the books and other educational materials under its supervision; and
- (g) Perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the Program.

SECTION 4. *Scope and Coverage Program* – All elementary and secondary public schools, and public libraries in remote barangays throughout the country shall be entitled to the benefits offered by the Program: Provided, That public schools shall be required to establish their own libraries: Provided, further, That private schools and libraries in remote barangays may avail of the benefits under the Program subject to the guidelines and standards as may be prescribed by the Department of Education.

SECTION 5. *Mechanism of the Program.* -

- (a) The Dep Ed shall introduce the program through the different government offices, agencies and institutions, the state colleges and universities, non-government organizations and private establishments which shall solicit from their officials, employees and members' donation of used books, magazines and other educational materials.
- (b) The Dep Ed may also solicit books from foreign sources;
- (c) At the end of every school year, all graduates from all levels shall be encouraged to donate their books and other educational materials to the Program;
- (d) Non-governmental organizations as may be designated by the Dep Ed shall be authorized to solicit and distribute book donations in accordance with the guidelines as may be formulated by the Dep Ed: Provided, That reports shall be submitted to the Department of Education as to the manner and number of books received and distributed;
- (e) The books and educational materials received shall be inventoried and distributed to qualified schools and libraries as may be determined by the Dep Ed in accordance with the guidelines as may be formulated for the Program.

SECTION 6. *Annual Report* – The Dep Ed shall submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines and the Congress on the implementation of the Program which shall include the number of books and other educational materials solicited and distributed and the beneficiaries thereof.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations* – The Secretary of the Dep Ed shall immediately include in its program and issue such rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,