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SENATE
S.B. 3179

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Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

*The library, I believe, is the last of our public institutions
to which you can go without credentials.
You don't even need the sticker on your windshield
that you need to get into the public beach.
All you need is the willingness to read.*

~ Harry Golden ~

For the longest period, libraries have been and shall always be the engines of civilization's progress. It is the repository of civilization's great traditions: the gathering and dissemination of hard-won human wisdom.

It is one institution that serves as the gateway to the past, the present and the future. In the library, one can find the resources to examine and confront our most difficult problems. Libraries provide individuals the weapon to hurdle obstacles and the remarkable power to change.

In recent years, however, there is cause for serious concern about the apparent decline in the utilization of libraries. The same is an aftermath of the continuing decline in reading.

Eight years ago, in a nationwide survey on Filipino youth by McCann Erickson (Philippine Business Magazine, 2001) reported that during free time, 88 % watch TV, 73 % listen to the radio, 50 % read books, 37 % use the internet and 12 % use cell phones. According to educator Patricia Licuanan, in her paper "Books and Schools" delivered in 2007, the above mentioned figures may have dramatically changed since this particular survey with increase in the use of cell phones and internet. She observed that, "in contrast to subways in Tokyo and New York, hardly anyone reads in our MRT and LRT lines. Those who do, read the free tabloid *Libre* printed by Philippine Daily Inquirer. In public schools, teachers lament how students no longer read. Even in their homes, their parents do not buy/read newspapers preferring to spend their 20 pesos on food or transportation."

Dr. Licuanan further stated, “the decline in reading is generally attributed to a number of factors. Poverty has been identified as a major culprit. Poor children have little access to reading materials in school and at home. Books are often considered a luxury. The libraries of poor communities are inferior and are open less. Then again, we have counter examples of how the decline in the reading culture may not be completely attributed to poverty as homes of well-off families often have toys and gadgets more visible than books. Increased participation in a variety of electronic media, including the internet, video games, and portable digital services has been found to correlate with decline in reading. Spending for electronics has surpassed spending for books.”

This legislation is submitted with humble missions: to promote the establishments of mobile libraries, bringing it closer to the users and encouraging the citizens to read books and reading materials again.

Early cognizance of this legislation is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manny Villar', positioned above the printed name.

MANNY VILLAR

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

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**AN ACT
PROMOTING THE ESTABLISHMENTS OF MOBILE LIBRARIES,
PROVIDING TACTICAL AND INGENIOUS INITIATIVES FOR ITS
IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be cited as the "Love for Reading: Mobile Libraries of the Philippines Act of 2009.":

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is declared a policy of the State to protect and promote the right of the citizens to quality education and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, the State shall provide the necessary framework and resources for the implementation of educational programs, projects and services; encouraging local initiatives for the improvement of the citizens.

Toward this end, it is the objective of this Act to give meaning and accord full significance to the said constitutional provision by promoting one of the most significant aspects of education: reading. And the same can be achieved through the creation of mobile libraries.

Mobile Libraries. The mobile library is a service or an activity of many types of libraries. It is settled to facilitate users who find it inconvenient to go to the library because of the distance, time, expense, lack of knowledge on library, and the lack of reading habit.

SEC. 3. Government Initiative in the Creation of Mobile Libraries. Beginning the year this Act is approved, the amount of one hundred million pesos (Php 100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the combined earnings of the Philippine Amusement and gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The budgetary support must be continued for seven (7) years or longer, upon reasonable determination of the usefulness, relevance and

effectiveness of mobile libraries as tools for education and empowerment of the citizens.

The National Library of the Philippines shall be the main government agency to implement the provisions of this Act. The National Library shall consult relevant and concerned private and public offices, non-government organizations, members of the academe and local government leaders on matters that will best promote and implement the establishments of mobile libraries and its effective utilization.

SEC. 4. Incentives for Private Corporations that will Adopt, Donate or Establish Mobile Libraries. The Department of Finance shall issue the relevant guidelines that will provide fiscal and tax incentives to private companies, organizations and foreign donors that will adopt, donate or establish mobile libraries in the country.

SEC. 5. Other Activities That Can Be Sponsored by Mobile Libraries. To implement the objectives and aims of this Act, mobile libraries can be used to sponsor and conduct book weeks, book fairs, book clubs, recognition rites for frequent borrowers, displaying new books and featured selections/collections, exposition of library instruction programs, among others.

Mobile libraries can also engage in sponsoring livelihood programs, walking tours of historic and cultural heritage areas, socio-economic workshops and trainings and others.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The National Library of the Philippines in consultation with relevant offices shall issue the necessary rules and regulations sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,