SENATE

S.B. No. **3011**

REC... BY _____

Introduced by SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY

The Philippines, to be globally competitive, needs to modernize its information technology and comprehensively implement a computer literacy education program in both the elementary and high school levels. The private education sector has long been introducing its student population to computers, but the public schools, which educate the majority of our young people, remain lagging behind.

Almost always, the culprit is lack of funds to pursue and implement modernization measures in the educational system. Every year, general appropriations for the Department of Education increase, but still lack, in funds for the basics – construction of school buildings, increase in the number of teacher's trainings, printing and/or purchase of new textbooks, among others. Computer literacy education is not a top priority. With the country and the rest of the world reeling to information Age, a concrete and decisive step should be done to uplift the quality of our public education to international standards.

This bill proposes to make it mandatory for all public schools in the country to have a comprehensive education program, in all levels. This bill likewise mandates sufficient funding for the program, as the same shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. With this, it is expected that our public schools will produce quality and computer-literate graduates. It is the call of the times. Our youth need not lag behind their counterparts in the private schools, even more those from other countries and give them the opportunity to possess a high literacy level in this era of information technology.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly and urgently sought.

MANNY VILLAR

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Introduced by SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

AN ACT

CREATING A SPECIAL COMPUTER LITERACY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1   **Section 1. Creation of Special Computer Literacy and Information Technology**
2 **Education Program for Public Schools.** – There is hereby created a Special Computer
3 Literacy Education Program for Public Schools, including state colleges and universities
4 hereafter referred to as the Special Program, to promote a comprehensive computer literacy
5 education in public schools, and utilize this knowledge as an effective instrument for the
6 advancement of a globally competitive citizenry through computer technology.
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8   **Section 2. Mandatory in Primary and Secondary School Curricula.** – It shall be
9 mandatory for all primary and secondary schools to integrate computer education in their
10 curricula.
11
12   **Section 3. Computer Laboratory in State Colleges and Universities.** – There
13 shall be a computer laboratory in each state college and university under the Special
14 Program.
15
16   **Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of Education,
17 Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Science and Technology, in
18 coordination with the Department of Budget and Management shall issue guidelines, rules
19 and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act within one
20 hundred twenty (120) days upon effectivity.
21
22   **Section 5. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the Special
23 program shall be included in the *General Appropriations Act* of the year following its
24 enactment into law and thereafter.
25
26   **Section 6. Annual Report.** – The Secretary of Education shall submit within fifteen
27 (15) days from the opening of the regular session of Congress to the President of the
28 Philippines, to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and
29 to the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of Both Houses of Congress, an
30 annual report which shall include an account of the programs, projects and detailed
31 expenses undertaken pursuant to this Act.
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1   **Section 7. Separability Clause.** – I the event any portion or provision of this Act is
2 declared unconstitutional, the remainder or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain
3 in force and effect.
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5   **Section 8. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
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8   Approved.
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