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SENATE
P.S. Res. 1558

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Villar

RESOLUTION

URGING THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXTENT OF BOOK PIRACY IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF PROMOTING THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY AND THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF COPYRIGHT SUPPORT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the significance of education, "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";

WHEREAS, the Book Publishing Industry Development Act or RA 8047 was enacted in 1995 to bring about quality, affordable and highly accessible books and reference materials;

WHEREAS, according to the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), "piracy has not dampened the growth of the book publishing industry as almost P15 billion worth of books were sold in 2005 and was continuously growing";

WHEREAS, the latest report from the National Book Development Board indicated that more than 26,800 books were published from 2004 to 2009;

WHEREAS, amongst IP practitioners engaged in book publication, the problem of "book piracy deprives authors the fruits of their labor and stunts the growth of the publishing industry and the economy and that beyond economics, a robust publishing is imperative to preserve and promote our rich cultural heritage";

WHEREAS, the institutionalization of Philippine copyright support services unit including the establishment of collection societies for writers and book authors, is one of the mechanisms to improve the sector;

WHEREAS, there are pending legislation geared at improving the quality of textbooks utilized in the educational system as well as clarifying the unclear provisions of existing law with regard to retail trade maintenance and uniform discounting scheme in book trade;

WHEREAS, the book industry must be supported and strengthened considering that the Philippines is known as a haven of creative writers and book authors: Now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY the Senate to Urge the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the extent of book piracy in the country with the objectives of promoting the book publishing industry and the institutionalization of copyright support services.

Adopted,



MANNY VILLAR