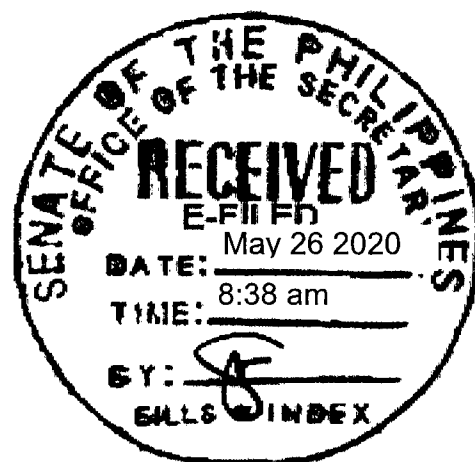


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE

P. S. Res. No. 415

Introduced by Senator MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, WITH THE INTENT OF DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF CREATING AN ONLINE EDUCATIONAL DELIVERY PLATFORM, TO BE MANAGED BY THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), THAT WILL BE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, TEACHERS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic has caused the abrupt closure of all schools and educational institutions in the country;

WHEREAS, with the uncertainty of when and how the return to normal would be, discussions have been made on the need to shift to alternative learning modalities during the existence of the public health emergency;

WHEREAS, schools from the primary to tertiary level have resorted to online or virtual classes in order to deliver the lessons to the students, conduct tests, and provide for homework and other educational requirements;

WHEREAS, it is laudable on the part of the Department of Education to be able to come up and establish the DepEd Commons¹ which is an online education delivery platform designed as alternative mode for teaching-learning process during class suspensions and other similar circumstances². The DepEd Commons provides access to public and private school learners and Alternative Learning System (ALS) students on online educational resources, review materials and content created by subject matter experts. DepEd was also able to partner with telecommunications companies to give learners free internet access to the website³;

WHEREAS, on the part of college students, reliable internet connectivity is a hardship that confronts them whenever classes shift to online or digital modes or platforms. During this COVID-19 pandemic and in similar calamities and emergencies, expenses and fees relative to internet subscription are not a priority, especially for poor households or those families whose income-earners are forced out of work or business;

WHEREAS, it is reported that only 20% of state universities and colleges (SUCs) are equipped to conduct online classes⁴. Therefore, an overwhelming majority of them does not have the capacity to even set up their own online educational websites or platforms;

WHEREAS, it is therefore necessary for the Commission on Higher Education to study the feasibility of adopting the best practices employed by the Department of Education and to create a platform similar to the DepEd Commons which can be freely

¹ <https://commons.deped.gov.ph/>

² <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2020/04/21/deped-taps-telco-partners-for-free-access-to-deped-commons/>

³ <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2020/04/21/deped-taps-telco-partners-for-free-access-to-deped-commons/>

⁴ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1269639/only-20-of-state-universities-colleges-ready-for-online-classes>

accessed and subscribed to by all tertiary education institutions, teachers and college students all over the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, with the intent of determining the feasibility of creating an online educational delivery platform, to be managed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that will be accessible to all tertiary education institutions, teachers and college students.

Adopted,



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID