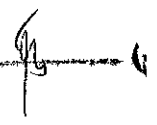


**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*First Regular Session*

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} 7 JUL -3 P 6:24  
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**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY 

S. B. No. 909

**Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**


The world has shrunk into a single global village. Advances in science and technology have made this possible. Modern telecommunications and modes of transportation have facilitated simultaneous and fast exchanges of ideas, information and resources among nations. This is the global technological and scientific setting which confronts the Philippines today.

In our country's strides to regain lost economic grounds, our people need to be attuned to the latest developments in science and technology. The Filipino youth must be scientifically and technically prepared so that their innate talents may be fully harnessed for national development.

The proposed bill, the basics of computer applications and programming will be integrated in the school curriculum. A Board on Computer Education is created. Private sectors' participation is enlisted through the grant of fiscal incentives to private sector participants. A voucher system is institutionalized with respect to the country's nineteen (19) poorest provinces to make these provinces at par with the rest of the country in terms of computer literacy. Community linkages among the participants are likewise enjoined to hasten the nationwide upgrading of computer skills.

*In short, this bill is intended to prepare the Filipino youth to meet the technological challenges of this new country.*

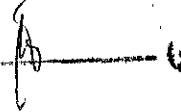
Approval of this bill is, thus, earnestly requested.

  
**EDGARDO J. ANGARA**  
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
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**AN ACT TO INTEGRATE COMPUTER EDUCATION PROGRAM INTO  
THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It shall be the policy of the  
2 State to promote functional computer literacy in all schools, at the earliest  
3 possible stage, and in a manner that is most efficient and effective in  
4 producing a population that is highly skilled in the creation, use and  
5 manipulation of computer software. In this regard, private sector initiative  
6 and participation shall always be encouraged to achieve this policy objective.

7  
8           **SECTION 2. Board on Computer Education; Creation, Power  
9 and Functions.** - A Board on Computer Education, hereafter referred to as  
10 Board, is hereby created to implement the provision of this Act and for this  
11 purpose shall have the following powers and shall have the following powers  
12 and shall exercise the following functions:

- 13           (a) Supervise the accreditation of the computer schools which will  
14           participate in the program;
- 15           (b) Assess and provide for the necessary training of the personnel of  
16           computer schools of methods of teaching;
- 17           (c) Prepare the curriculum for computer-aided logic, math and science  
18           education in the elementary level;
- 19           (d) Monitor the performance of the computer schools;
- 20           (e) Evaluate the abilities of the students enrolled in the program;
- 21           (f) Issue and implement all rules and regulations provided for in this  
22           Act; and
- 23           (g) Exercise all other powers and functions which may be necessary to  
24           carry out the provisions of this Act.

25

1           **SECTION 3. *Board Composition.*** - The Board shall be composed of  
2 the following Members:

- 3           (a) One (1) representative from the Department of Education to be  
4           nominated by the Secretary of Education
- 5           (b) One (1) representative from the Commission on Higher Education  
6           (CHED) to be nominated by the CHED Chairman;
- 7           (c) One (1) representative from the Department of Science and  
8           Technology to be nominated by the Secretary of Department of  
9           Science and Technology;
- 10          (d) One (1) representative from the duly accredited professional  
11          organizations of computer programmers and system analysts to be  
12          nominated by the recognized leadership of these organizations;
- 13          (e) One (1) representative from the National Economic Development  
14          Authority, to be nominated by the Secretary-General of the  
15          National Economic Development Authority;

16

17          The representative from the Department of Education shall serve as  
18 Chairman of the Board. The Chairman and the Members shall be appointed  
19 by the President of the Republic of the Philippines for the term of five (5)  
20 years and shall have the rank and compensation of a Bureau Director.

21

22           **SECTION 4. *Promotion of the Build-Operate-Transfer scheme***  
23 ***and other similar arrangements.*** - The provision of Republic Act No. 6957,  
24 as amended, shall be applied to the construction, operation and servicing of  
25 computer education and its facilities, Provided that any contractual  
26 arrangement that will be utilized for this purpose shall additionally provide  
27 for the following:

- 28          (a) A training program for teachers not only on computer literacy but  
29          also on the maintenance and servicing of computer education  
30          facilities; and
- 31          (b) An apprenticeship program for interested students of the public  
32          school being serviced whereby they may be employed as apprentices  
33          for the education component or for the facilities maintenance  
34          component of computer education.

35

1 The build-operate-transfer arrangement or any other similar  
2 arrangements provided for in Republic Act No. 6957, as amended, may be  
3 bidden out and awarded at the school district level or at the school level, in  
4 accordance with the implementing rules and regulations to be issued by the  
5 Board.

6  
7 **SECTION 5. *Institutionalization of the Voucher System for***  
8 ***Specialized Computer Education in the Nineteen (19) Poorest***  
9 ***Provinces.*** - In addition to whatever contractual arrangements which may  
10 be utilized under the provisions of Section 4 hereof, there shall be created a  
11 voucher system for specialized computer education in the country's nineteen  
12 (19) poorest provinces whereby each of these provinces shall be given the  
13 amount of Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) each year from the annual  
14 budget allocated for the implementation of the specialized computer  
15 education program or such amount as may be later on provided by law.

16 Students in these provinces who have completed secondary education  
17 shall be allowed to take competitive aptitude examinations in specialized  
18 computer education.

19 Students who have passed such qualifying examinations, or as many of  
20 those who may provided funds from the annual budget, shall be given a  
21 voucher worth Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) each, or such amount as may  
22 be later on provided law, to enroll in a computer school of his or her choice, to  
23 finish advanced and specialized computer courses such as, but not limited to,  
24 advanced programming, computer-aided design, hardware design,  
25 networking, or such other courses that may be identified by the Board.

26 Each student shall be entitled to only one voucher. The Board shall  
27 issue the implementing rules and regulations to ensure that students do not  
28 enroll in more than one school, or that enrollment figures reflect actual  
29 enrollment. Student found guilty of violating this one-voucher-per-student  
30 rule shall be subject to the penalties provided hereunder.

31  
32 **SECTION 6. *Accreditation of Computer Education Service***  
33 ***Providers.*** - All entities participating in the activities described in Sections 4  
34 and 5 hereof must be accredited by the Board as bona fide participants. The  
35 Accreditation shall be based on the following criteria:

- 36 (a) The curriculum meets the standards provided for by the Board;

- 1 (b) The quality of the computers and other peripherals to be provided  
2 and the other physical infrastructures to be built, operated or used  
3 which must ensure quality of education and minimum health and  
4 safety-standards;
- 5 (c) The capability of the service provider's instructors. The Board will  
6 issue minimum standards for evaluating teaching ability; and
- 7 (d) With respect to renewal of applications, the performance of the  
8 students on performance measures to be designed by the Board.
- 9

10 **SECTION 7. *Curriculum of Publicly-funded Computer***  
11 ***Education.*** - The computer literacy program acknowledges the vital  
12 participation of the private sector in the scheme, but the curriculum shall be  
13 prepared by the Board. The curriculum should make use of computer-assisted  
14 education to teach elementary students the basic courses of math, science  
15 and logic. These courses will prepare the student for the demands of  
16 computer programming and system analysis, as well as strengthen the  
17 learning the student receives from the formal educational system. The Board  
18 will also prepare the curriculum for computer programming and popular  
19 software utilization, which will be taught at the high school level.

20

21 **SECTION 8. *Monitoring and Incentives on Performance.*** -  
22 Monitoring of the program shall be done to maintain the quality of education  
23 being given to the students. Performance measures shall include, but not be  
24 limited to, the following:

- 25 (a) Periodic renewal of accreditation or license to operate;
- 26 (b) Testing;
- 27 (c) National competitions; and
- 28 (d) Unannounced visits to participating schools.

29 The Board shall formulate or commission the formulation of  
30 performance index which will be used in assessing the performance of the  
31 participating schools. The latest results of the evaluation of all schools shall  
32 be published before the start of every school year. The Board shall formulate  
33 a system of rewards and incentives to promote excellence among the service  
34 providers.

35

36

1           **SECTION 9. *Tax-free Importation of Computer Hardware and***  
2 ***Software.*** - All entities who have been accredited, or who have obtained  
3 contracts as participants in the activities provided for in Sections 4 and 5  
4 hereof shall be given fiscal incentives.

5           These incentives shall include the tax- free importation of all computer  
6 hardware, software, peripherals and documentary materials. However, these  
7 incentives shall be limited to imports that are intended for the schools. These  
8 incentives shall last for a period of not more than ten years from the  
9 effectivity of this Act.

10          The Board shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for the  
11 availment of the incentives described herein.

12  
13           **SECTION 10. *Phased Implementation.***- The computer education  
14 program shall be implemented in phases to ensure that program and  
15 infrastructure requirement shall be met, to prepare the private sector for the  
16 demand for computer schools and equipment, and to prime-up the local  
17 demand for computer-literate workers.

18          The implementation shall be done in accordance with the following  
19 objectives:

- 20           (a) The graduation, one year from the effectivity of this Act, of a corps  
21           of high-school students who can manipulate the most popular  
22           computer application programs in the areas of word processing,  
23           database encoding and spreadsheets;
- 24           (b) The graduation, three years from the effectivity of this Act, of a  
25           corps of high schools students who are not only literate in the  
26           applications described in paragraph (a) herein, but also in basic  
27           programming and system analysis; and
- 28           (c) The immediate use of computer-aided education which complement  
29           the academic instructions in math, science and logic.

30  
31           **SECTION 11. *Community Linkages.*** - Other software and computer  
32 programming may be taught by the schools and service providers under a  
33 community link-up system whereby additional training on the use of special  
34 software can be paid for by interested business or manufacturing firms in the  
35 community. The business community will also be encouraged to expand and

1 update their manufacturing procedures to achieve efficiency through  
2 computerization or computer-controlled processes.

3  
4 **SECTION 12. *Budget and Funding.*** - An initial budget of One  
5 Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) to be disbursed from the earnings  
6 of the lotteries conducted by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office is  
7 hereby appropriated for the payment of the services to be provided under  
8 Sections 4 and 5 of this Act as well as for the expenses related to the  
9 establishment and operation of the Board. Thereafter, the funds necessary for  
10 the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the yearly  
11 General Appropriations Act.

12 The administrative expenses related to the implementation of this Act  
13 shall not be more than three percent (3%) of the annual appropriations for  
14 this Computer Educations Program.

15  
16 **SECTION 13. *Penalties.*** -- Any person found guilty of violating the  
17 provisions of Section 5 hereof shall be meted the following penalties:

18 (a) The student shall pay the full cost of tuition, with interest thereon.

19 The payment may be in cash, or in its equivalent in terms of  
20 community service.

21 (b) The accreditation of the service providers found guilty of padding  
22 their enrollment figures, or for knowingly permitting a student to  
23 violate the provisions of Section 5 hereof shall be suspended, for the  
24 first offense, without prejudice to the payment of twice the amount  
25 of reimbursement resulting from the padded enrollment as fine.

26  
27 **SECTION 14. *Rules and Regulations.*** - Within forty five (45) days  
28 from the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the necessary  
29 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of  
30 this Act.

31  
32 **SECTION 15. *Separability Clause.*** -- In the event that any  
33 provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other  
34 provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

35

1           **SECTION 16. *Repealing Clause.*** -- All laws, decrees, orders, rules  
2 and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
3 repealed or modified accordingly.

4

5           **SECTION 17. *Effectivity.*** -- This law shall take effect fifteen (15)  
6 days after its publication in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

7

8           *Approved,*