

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

7 2013

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1831

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill intends to prepare the Filipino youth to meet the technological challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – by promoting their scientific and technical literacy in the field of computer education.

Under the proposed measure, 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.

*Approval of this bill is, thus, fervently called for.*

  
MANNY VILLAR

SENATE

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
MAY 12 2012

Senate Bill No. 1831

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

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**AN ACT  
TO INTEGRATE A COMPUTER EDUCATION PROGRAM  
INTO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

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

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

- 12  
13           (a) supervise the accreditation of the computer schools which will participate  
14 in the program;  
15  
16           (b) assess and provide for the necessary training of the personnel of  
17 computer schools on methods of teaching;  
18  
19           (c) prepare the curriculum for computer-aided logic math and science  
20 education in the elementary level;  
21  
22           (d) monitor the performance of the computer schools;  
23  
24           (e) evaluate the abilities of the students enrolled in the program;  
25  
26           (f) issue and implement all rules and regulations provided for in this Act;  
27 and  
28  
29           (g) exercise all other powers and functions which may be necessary to carry  
30 out the provisions of this Act  
31

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

- 3
- 4 (a) One (1) representative from the Department of Education (DepEd) to be  
5 nominated by the Secretary of DepEd;
- 6
- 7 (b) One (1) representative from the Commission on Higher Education  
8 (CHED) to be nominated by the CHED Chairman;
- 9
- 10 (c) One (1) representative from the Department of Science and Technology  
11 to be nominated by the Secretary of Department of Science and  
12 Technology;
- 13
- 14 (d) One (1) representative from the duly accredited professional  
15 organizations of computer programmers and system analysts to be  
16 nominated by the recognized leadership of these organizations;
- 17
- 18 (e) One (1) representative from the National Economic Development  
19 Authority, to be nominated by the Secretary-General of the National  
20 Economic Development Authority;
- 21

22 The representative from DepEd shall serve as the Chairman of the Board.

23

24 The Chairman and the Members shall be appointed by the President of the  
25 Republic of the Philippines for a term of five (5) years and shall have the rank and  
26 compensation of a Bureau Director.

27

28 SECTION 4. *Promotion of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Scheme and*  
29 *other Similar Arrangements.* – The provision of Republic Act No. 6957, as amended,  
30 shall be applied to the construction, operation and servicing of computer education  
31 and its facilities, *Provided*, That any contractual arrangement that will be utilized for  
32 this purpose shall additionally provide for the following:

33

- 34 (a) A training program for teachers not only on computer literacy but also on  
35 the maintenance and servicing of computer education facilities; and
- 36
- 37 (b) An apprenticeship program for the interested students of the public  
38 school being serviced whereby they may be employed as apprentices for  
39 the education component of for the facilities maintenance component of  
40 computer education.
- 41

42 The build-operate-transfer arrangement or any other similar arrangements  
43 provided for in Republic Act No. 6957, as amended, may be bidded out and  
44 awarded at the school district level, in accordance with the implementing rules and  
45 regulations to be issued by the Board.

46

47 SECTION 5. *Institutionalization of the Voucher System for Specialized*  
48 *Computer Education in the Nineteen (19) Poorest Provinces.* – In addition, to  
49 whatever contractual arrangements which may be utilized under the provisions of  
50 Section 4 hereof, there shall be created a voucher system for specialized computer  
51 education in the country's nineteen (19) poorest provinces whereby each of these  
52 provinces shall be given the amount of Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) each  
53 year from the annual budget allocated for the implementation of the specialized  
54 computer education program, or such amount as may be later provided by the law,  
55 to enroll in a computer school of his or her choice, to finish advanced and  
56 specialized computer courses such as, but not limited to, advanced programming,

1 computer aided design, hardware design, networking, or such other courses that  
2 may be identified by the Board.

3  
4 Each student shall be entitled to only one voucher. The Board shall issue the  
5 implementing rules and regulations to ensure that the students do not enroll in more  
6 than one school, or that enrollment figures reflect actual enrollment. Student found  
7 guilty of violating this one-voucher-per-student rule shall be subject to the penalties  
8 provided hereunder.

9  
10 SECTION 6. *Accreditation of Computer Education Service Providers.* – All  
11 entities shall participate in the activities described in Sections 4 and 5 hereof must  
12 be accredited by the Board as bona fide participants. The accreditation must be  
13 renewed for every period of not less than one year but not more than five years.  
14 Accreditation shall be based on the following criteria:

- 15  
16 (a) The curriculum meets the standards provided for by the Board;  
17 (b) The quality of the computers and other peripherals to be provided and  
18 other physical infrastructure to be built, operated or used which must  
19 ensure quality of education and minimum health and safety standards;  
20 (c) The capability of the service provided instructors. The Board will issue  
21 minimum standards for evaluating teaching ability; and  
22 (d) With respect to renewal applications, the performance of the students on  
23 performance measures to be designed by the Board.

24  
25 SECTION 7. *Curriculum of Publicity-funded Computer Education.* – The  
26 computer literacy program acknowledges the vital participation of the private sector  
27 in the scheme, but the curriculum shall be prepared by the Board.

28  
29 The curriculum should make use of computer-assisted education to teach  
30 elementary students the basic courses of math, science and logic. These courses  
31 will prepare the student for the demands of computer programming and system  
32 analysis, as well as strengthen the learning student receives from the formal  
33 education system.

34  
35 The Board will also prepare the curriculum for computer programming and  
36 popular software utilization, which will be taught at the high school level.

37  
38 SECTION 8. *Monitoring and Incentive on Performance.* – Monitoring of the  
39 program shall be done to maintain the quality of education being given to the  
40 students. Performances measures shall include, but not limited to the following:

- 41  
42 (a) periodic renewal accreditation or license to operate;  
43 (b) testing;  
44 (c) national competitions; and,  
45 (d) unannounced visits to participating schools.

46  
47 The Board shall formulate or commission the formulation of a performance  
48 index which will be used in assessing the performance of the participating schools.  
49 The latest result of the evaluation of all schools shall be published before the start of  
50 every school year.

51  
52 The Board shall formulate a system rewards and incentives to promote  
53 excellence among the service providers.

54  
55 SECTION 9. *Tax-free Importation of Computer Hardware and Software.* – All  
56 entities who have been accredited, or who have obtained contracts as participants in  
57 the activities provided for in Sections 4 and 5 hereof shall be given fiscal incentives.

1  
2 These incentives shall include the tax-free importation of all computer  
3 hardware, software, peripherals and documentary materials. However, these  
4 incentives shall last for a period of not more ten years from the effectivity of this Act.  
5

6 The Board shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for the  
7 availment of the incentives described herein.  
8

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

15 The implementations shall be done in accordance with the following  
16 objectives:  
17

18 (a) the graduation, one year from the effectivity of this Act, of a corps of high  
19 school students who can manipulate the most popular computer  
20 application programs in the areas of word processing , database  
21 encoding and spreadsheets;  
22

23 (b) the graduation, three years from the effectivity of this Act, of a corps of  
24 high school students who are not only literate in the applications  
25 described in paragraph (a) herein, but also in the basic programming and  
26 system analysis; an,  
27

28 (c) the immediate use of computer-aided education which will compliment  
29 the academic instructions in math, science and logic.  
30

31 SECTION 11. *Community Linkage.* – Other software and computer  
32 programming may be taught by the schools and service providers under community  
33 link-up system whereby additional training on the use of special software can be  
34 paid for by interested business or manufacturing firms in the community. The  
35 business community will also be encouraged to expand and update their  
36 manufacturing procedures to achieve efficiency through computerization or  
37 computer-controlled processes.  
38

39 SECTION 12. *Budget and Funding.* – An initial of One Hundred Million  
40 Pesos (P100,000,000.00) to be disbursed from the earnings of the lotteries  
41 conducted by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office is hereby appropriated for  
42 the payment of the services to be provided under Sections 4 and 5 of this Act as  
43 well as for the expenses related to the establishment and operation of the Board.  
44 Thereafter, the necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be  
45 included in the yearly General Appropriations Act.  
46

47 The administrative expenses related to the implementation of this Act shall be  
48 both more than three percent (3%) of the annual appropriations for this Computer  
49 Education Program.  
50

51 SECTION 13. *Penalties.* – Any person found guilty of violating the provisions  
52 of Section 5 hereof shall be meted the following penalties:  
53

54 (a) The student shall pay the full cost of tuition, with interest thereon. The  
55 payment may be in cash or in its equivalent in terms of community  
56 service.  
57

1 (b) The accreditation of the service providers found guilty of padding their  
2 enrollment figures, or for knowingly permitting a student to violate the  
3 provisions of Section 5 hereof, without prejudice to the payment of twice  
4 the amount of reimbursement resulting from the padded enrollment as  
5 fine.  
6

7 SECTION 14. *Rules and Regulations.* – Within forty-five (45) days from the  
8 effectivity of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and  
9 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.  
10

11 SECTION 15. *Separability Clause.* – In the event that any provisions of this  
12 Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be  
13 affected by such declaration.  
14

15 SECTION 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and  
16 regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or  
17 modified accordingly.  
18

19 SECTION 17. *Effectivity.* - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
20 publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.  
21

22 Approved,  
23