

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL -7 11:28

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 497

RECEIVED BY: 

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act 8047, otherwise known as the Book Industry Development Act of 1995, provides that, "It is hereby declared a policy of the State to promote the continuing development of the book publishing industry with the active participation of the private sector to ensure an adequate supply of affordable, quality-produced books not only for the domestic but also for the export market."

However, despite the passage of said law, shortages of quality textbooks and other educational materials are still among perennial problems besetting our students. One of the reasons for this is the frequent changes made in the rules for the formulation of educational curriculum everytime there is a change of administration and the consequent changes in the preparation of appropriate textbooks and related materials. This does not only nullify the developmental efforts during the preceding administrators but also puts into vain the huge investments made for this purpose.

There is a consensus among the stakeholders that in order to truly come up with sufficient quality textbooks and related educational materials to respond to the requirements of our students in the public elementary and secondary schools, it would take at least six (6) to ten (10) years, composed of at least three (3) to five (5) years for research and study and another three (3) to five (5) years for implementation, to develop and adopt with the desired curriculum development.

This proposed measure seeks to remedy such situation by mandating that educational curriculum and the consequent preparation of textbooks and related educational materials should have continuity and stability and that the same should not be affected by any change during the period of at least six (6) years.

The early passage of this proposed measure is highly recommended.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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AN ACT  
MANDATING THAT EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM AND THE CONSEQUENT  
PREPARATION OF TEXTBOOKS AND RELATED MATERIALS SHOULD  
HAVE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY, AND THAT THE SAME SHOULD NOT  
BE AFFECTED BY ANY CHANGE DURING THE PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX  
(6) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 8047, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8047, otherwise known as the  
"Book Publishing Industry Development Act" is hereby amended by adding a  
paragraph to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is recognized that  
the book publishing industry has a significant role in national  
development, considering that books which are its products  
are instrumental in the citizenry's intellectual, technical and  
cultural development – the basic social foundation for the  
economic and social growth of the country. Books are the  
most effective and economical tools for achieving  
educational growth, for imparting information and for  
recording, preserving and disseminating the nation's cultural  
heritage.

"Accordingly, it is hereby declared a policy of the  
State to promote the continuing development of the book  
publishing industry, with the active participation of the private  
sector, to ensure an adequate supply of affordable, quality-  
produced books not only for the domestic but also for the  
export market. For this purpose, the government shall  
formulate, adopt and implement a National Book Policy and  
a corresponding National Book Development Plan that will  
serve as the enduring basis for fostering the progressive  
growth and viability of the book industry."

"TO ACHIEVE THE ABOVEMENTIONED POLICY, IT  
IS HEREBY MANDATED THAT EDUCATIONAL  
CURRICULUM AND THE CONSEQUENT PREPARATION  
OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL

MATERIALS SHOULD HAVE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY, AND THAT THE SAME SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY ANY CHANGE DURING THE PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX (6) YEARS.”

**SEC. 2.** Section 10 of R.A. 8047 is hereby amended by adding a paragraph to read as follows:

“Sec. 10. Public School and Textbook Publishing. – The [DECS] DEPED shall consult with the Board in prescribing the guidelines, rules and regulations in preparing the minimum learning competencies and/or prototypes and other specifications for books required by public elementary and secondary schools.

The [DECS] DEPED shall confine itself to:

- a) preparing the minimum learning competencies, and/or prototypes and other specifications for books and/or manuscripts called for;
- b) testing, evaluating, selecting and approving the manuscripts or books to be submitted by the publishers for multiple adoption;
- c) providing assistance in the distribution of textbooks to the public school systems; and,
- d) promulgating, with the participation and assistance of the Board, rules and regulations for the private book publishers in the call, testing evaluation, selection, approval, as well as production specification and acquisition of public school textbooks.

GUIDELINES. RULES AND REGULATIONS IN PREPARING THE MINIMUM LEARNING COMPETENCIES AND/OR PROTOTYPES AND OTHER SPECIFICATIONS FOR TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RELATED EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY ANY CHANGE WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OR IN THE DEPED DURING THE PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX (6) YEARS.

The printing of public elementary and secondary school textbooks shall be done on a regional or provincial level, whenever economically feasible.

The [DECS] DEPED shall within a period of not more than three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act phase out its elementary and secondary textbook publication and distribution functions and shall support the phasing in of private sector publishers to assume these functions here. For its part, the Board shall monitor and conduct an annual

evaluation of the progress of the shift of functions from the [DECS] DEPED to the private sector.”

**SEC. 3.** The Department of Education (DepEd) in consultation with the National Book Development Board (NBDB) and with the active Book Suppliers and Publishers Association of the Philippines (NBSAP) shall issue guidelines and prescribe rules and regulations within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act. A copy of such guidelines, rules and regulations shall be furnished the Congress of the Philippines through the respective Chairmen of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

**SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly

**SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*