

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



13 JUL -1 P3 :27

SENATE
S. No. 156

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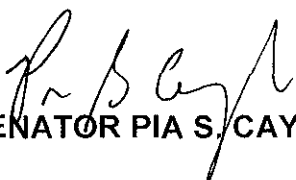
Introduced by SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

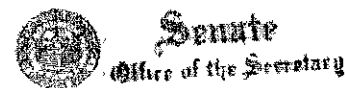
The steady rise in the number of students not attending or otherwise cutting classes in order to play computer games or surf the internet in computer rental shops, video arcades and internet cafes are downright alarming. Although there are some computer shop owners who voluntarily prohibit students from using the computers to play or surf during school hours, school officials, both in private and public schools, in general, have been helpless in requesting owners of said shops, arcades and cafes to refuse entry of students during school hours.

The operation of computer rental shops, internet cafes and similar establishments is not per se inimical to the well-being of students. With the advent of the internet age, these shops likewise provide access to students for research and other academic purposes. However, considering the danger that these shops likewise pose, there is an urgent need to regulate their operations so as not to allow them to become avenues for the disruption of students' attendance in class and a hindrance to a good education.

The immediate approval of this bill is hence earnestly sought.


SENATOR PIA S. CAYETANO

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**AN ACT REGULATING THE OPERATION OF COMPUTER RENTAL SHOPS
AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

SECTION 1. Prohibition. - Owners or operators of computer rental shops, video arcades, internet cafes and similar establishments or places of amusement are hereby prohibited from accepting students into their shops, arcades or cafes during regular school hours.

SECTION 2. Exemption. - students, whether in uniform or not, who intend to rent computers during school hours for the purpose of making a report, doing research, or for any other academic and/or legitimate purpose, shall be allowed entry and use of computers provided they secure a written authorization from their teacher, professor, prefect of discipline, school principal or other responsible official of the school.

SECTION 3. Maintenance of Log Book. - The owner, proprietor or manager of any computer shop or similar establishment that may be given exemption, as provided in the foregoing section, shall maintain a logbook of students allowed to rent a computer which shall contain, among others, information such as the students' name, their school, school identification card numbers, the length or duration of computer rentals, and other similar and relevant information. Computer rental shops and similar establishments shall likewise maintain a file for the documentation of written authorizations of students allowed to rent computers during school hours.

SECTION 4. Written Undertaking. - The owner, proprietor or manager of every computer shop or similar establishment shall execute a written undertaking not to admit into said establishment students during regular school hours, except for authorized academic or legitimate purposes as provided in Section 2 hereof, as a pre-requisite for the issuance or renewal of a business permit or similar license from the local government concerned.

SECTION 5. Signage. - The owner, proprietor or manager of every computer shop or similar establishment shall post at the entrance of the shop a sign stating that "minors are not allowed during regular school hours" or words of similar import.

SECTION 6. Penal Provision. - Owners, proprietors and/or managers of computer rental shops or similar establishments who allow entry of students in violation of the foregoing provisions shall be penalized as follows:

a) For the First Offense - A fine in such amount as the local government unit concerned is allowed by law to prescribe for violation of an ordinance which, in no case, shall exceed Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00);

b) For the Second Offense - A fine in such amount as the local government unit concerned is allowed by law to prescribe for violation of an ordinance which, in no case, shall exceed Three Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00);

c) For the Third Offense - A fine in such amount as the local government unit concerned is allowed by law to prescribe for violation of an ordinance which, in no case, shall exceed Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00), in addition to the permanent revocation of the establishment's business permit and/or prohibition from further engaging in a similar business.

SECTION 7. Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Interior and Local Government shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules, regulations and guidelines as may be necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. - If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. - Republic Act No. 1224 and all other acts, laws, executive orders, presidential issuances, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent herewith are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. - The provisions of this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,