

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)

7 JUL 26 P3:47

SENATE
S.B. No. 1387

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend the Republic Act No. 7743 otherwise known as "An Act Providing for the Establishment of Congressional, City and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers Throughout the Philippines, Appropriating the Necessary Funds Thereof and for Other Purposes by ensuring that all public libraries adhere to the demands of a globalized Filipino nation.

Republic Act No. 7743 was enacted to promote the moral and intellectual well being of the Filipino by increasing the literacy rate and emphasizing the significant role of education in nation-building through the establishment of public libraries and/or reading centers in all local government units. Over a decade after the law's enactment, only 1,136 libraries have been established. This figure is only a fraction of the libraries and/or reading centers that need to be set up in the 41,980 barangays and 1,618 cities and municipalities in order to purpose the goals of the law.

In 2007, the Department of Education procured and distributed 105.7 million textbooks to public schools for key subjects like English, Mathematics, and Science, to be used by 17 million elementary and secondary Filipino students from public schools. Clearly then, these figures show that the available reading materials are insufficient to answer the requirements of Filipino students. If RA No. 7743 was properly enacted, the libraries and/or reading centers could augment the lack of textbooks in public schools through other printed materials and encourage the passion for reading and seeking new knowledge.

This bill answers that need by ensuring that funds necessary to implement the law are provided for and increased annually until all cities and municipalities have access to full electronic library facilities.

Likewise this proposed measure requires development council of each city or municipality to make sure that their library centers and/or reading centers have the latest technological equipment needed to provide electronic library services. There is a need to equip public libraries with the latest computer and electronic library facilities to ensure that Filipino students have access to a wide variety of up-to-date learning materials.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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AN ACT

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of RA 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2 Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading Centers. - The National Library in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall undertake the establishment of additional public libraries to serve all congressional districts, cities and municipalities in the Philippines and reading centers in every barangay except in cities or municipalities where there are existing public libraries or in barangays where there are existing reading centers: Provided, That the establishment of such libraries and reading centers shall be based on the development program of the National Library **BASED ON THE LATEST COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY** in coordination with the development council of each city or municipality under Sec. 106 of the Local Government Code and in the case of the barangay reading centers, in coordination with the respective barangay councils: Provided, further, That where these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade the facilities thereof [.] **WITH COMPLETE STANDARD SETS OF BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS AS PROVIDED UNDER SEC. 3 OF THIS ACT AS WELL AS THE LATEST ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM USING COMPUTERS FOR STORING, CATALOGING, AND FILING OF DATA AND MATERIAL: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT BY THE YEAR 2010, ALL THE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM.**"

SECTION 2. Sec. 7 of RA 7748 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 7. Appropriations - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law [and for the next five (5) years: thereafter, the local government units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while the National Library shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to said libraries and reading centers]. **IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED, THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SHALL BE INCREASED IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE MILLION PESOS (P5,000,000.00) PER YEAR UNTIL ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE PROVIDED AND HAVE ACCESS TO FULL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FACILITIES.**”

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

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,