Republic of the Philippines
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
Quezon City




**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 712

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**Introduced by REP. JUDY J. SYJUCO**

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

Computer technology began a couple of decades ago in developed economies. Fortunately, in the Philippines we seemed to have entered the portal of cyber realm in spite of being a third world country, the only setback is that impoverish Filipinos are deprive of this benefit available only to those educated in private institutions.

While most countries started to reap the benefits of computer dominated transactions, Filipinos below the poverty line still wonder how does a computer work and how it will help them in their daily lives. Underprivileged school children may never experience the power of a small gadget that could be as handy as pocket calculator, in doing limitless task, at unbelievable speed and in superb accuracy.

It's truly unfortunate that the margin between the rich and poor could be traced even in this new field of interest. For instance, private schools offer computer literacy program as early as pre-school, and substantially improved as they progress in their studies, whereas, public elementary schools do not include in their curriculum any computer subject. For consolation, there is an introduction of computer education to public school students starting on their secondary level but still lagging miserably behind compared to their private school counterparts.

In lieu thereof, this bill is hereby proposed for the creation of special computer literacy education fund from the gross receipts tax imposed on cellular phone companies. The fund will support the computer literacy program of the government for public schools, from elementary to tertiary level, in its effort to uplift the current situation of public schools in terms of computer education.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

**JUDY J. SYJUCO**

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**AN ACT**
**MANDATING THE USE OF THE PROCEEDS FROM GROSS RECEIPTS TAX IMPOSED ON CELLULAR PHONE COMPANIES TO FINANCE THE COMPUTER LITERACY PROGRAMS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy** – It is declared as the policy of the State to establish, maintain and support a complete, adequate and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society. Likewise, it is hereby declared as the policy of the State to include computer literacy program as part of the curricula for elementary and secondary education in public schools.

**SECTION 2. Creation of Special Computer Literacy Education Fund for Public Schools** – There is hereby created a Special Computer Literacy Education Fund for Public Schools, including state colleges and universities, hereinafter referred to as the Special Fund.

The special fund will be derived from the gross receipts tax imposed on cellular phone companies and shall support the programs intended to advance the level of computer literacy in public schools nationwide.

**SECTION 3. Administration of the Special Fund –** The Special Fund shall be under the administration and supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd) for the elementary and secondary level and by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the tertiary level.

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. The publication shall not be later than seven (7) days after approval hereof.

Approved,