Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1473



Introduced by **Honorable Rodolfo C. Bacani**

Explanatory Note

Leading educators worldwide say that, in the not so distant future, interactive computer programs shall inevitably surpass textbooks as a main teaching tool. Without leaving the classroom, a student will soon have virtual internship connecting to the outside workplace.

But how prepared is the Philippine school system for these innovations? Where does it stand now?

Unfortunately, upon immediate reflection, a most grim reality evidently tempts our fate. According to recent inventory, we are still lacking in old basics such as classrooms, teachers, chairs and textbooks. Studies likewise reveal that we have hardly scratched the surface of such primary supplemental aids as libraries, laboratories, scientific instruments and other communication tools. More so, we are just beginning to introduce ourselves to computers and multi-media software.

There is urgent need, therefore, to create solutions for our present inadequacies while taking the first basic step to modernization. Our goal to achieve global competitiveness demands nothing less.

While much government attention and resources have been principally focused on the first task, this proposed measure aims to deal with the second objective and allow our educational system the proper environment to keep pace with global modernization. Through integrating computer education into the elementary and high school curricula, it will hope to ensure that computers, CD Roms, Internet access and other advanced tools of communication and instruction shall be as common to Filipino classrooms as they are in most of modernized areas all over the world.

In view of its prospective and vital contributions to the task of creating a globally-competitive human resource base, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

RODOLFO C. BACANI
4th District, Manila

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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 1473

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AN ACT
INTEGRATING COMPUTER EDUCATION INTO THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL CURRICULUM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This act shall be known as the **"COMPUTER EDUCATION ACT OF 2004."**

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to encourage, promote and support the development, teaching, study and administrative and instructional uses of computers, telecommunications and other aspects of information technology, in government-funded elementary and secondary level schools in order to modernize the system, enhance the quality and relevance of public education and improve equity in the acquisition of skills among all students. It shall be the State policy to incorporate information technology literacy and the use of information technology in making teaching and learning more effective from the earliest grade level. Toward these ends, the State shall develop a Computer Education Program with due consideration to curricular enhancement, teacher training, provision of facilities, equipment and systems, software and other instructional materials. The State likewise recognizes the role and contribution of the private sector in developing such computer education programs in the country and encourages its participation in all activities that lead to the achievement of these policy objectives.

SECTION 3. Mandatory Coverage. - All elementary and secondary schools shall integrate computer education into their curriculum.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms.
Computer Education - for purposes of this Act, shall refer to the integration of information technology in curriculum content enhancement, instruction and administration. Its objectives include:

a. the use of computers, related technologies and software to improve personal productivity;
b. the use of computer and related technologies to enhance learning of basic subject areas;

c. the inculcation of the ethical use of information technology among learners; and
d. the acquisition of knowledge and skills in the operation and maintenance of computer and peripherals, and the understanding of basic operating systems.

Integration – hereby referred to is an educational strategy wherein the computer education learning competencies become part of appropriate subjects in elementary and secondary education.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The Department of Education shall issue guidelines, rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the GAA of the year following the enactment into law.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - In the event any portion or provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,