

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3416

Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is of common knowledge that very few provinces, if any, have adequate public law libraries sufficiently supplied with law books, law journals and periodicals for the use of law students, lawyers, judges, court personnel and other users.

With the high cost of law books, journals and periodicals, lawyers, law students, administrative bodies, courts and provincial prosecution offices can hardly be expected to be furnished with an adequate complement of law books, digests, journals and periodicals which are regularly updated. Law students in the provinces and new law graduates who recently passed the bar examinations need supplementary research materials to assist in their study and practice of law.

This bill makes it mandatory for every province to provide in a gradual manner according to their respective classification the establishment of public law libraries for the use of the law students, lawyers, judges, court personnel and law enforcement arms. Provinces need more of public library facilities than cities where practitioners therein are better equipped than in provinces.

This measure will not only make accessible to law students and practitioners, as well as judges and court personnel, research materials and jurisprudence which will considerably facilitate the

study and practice of law and assist in the decision of judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative regulatory bodies, but it will also enhance the quality of the practice of the legal profession and dispensation of justice, specially in areas outside of Metro Manila.

The cooperative effort among the local IBP Chapters, the U.P. Law Center and provincial authorities in the formulation of the structure required in the construction and installation of the public library, its stock of reference materials and the installation of computer-oriented facilities are imperative.

The inherent merits of this bill argue for its early passage.



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AN ACT
PRESCRIBING THAT PROVINCES APPROPRIATE AND SET
ASIDE ANNUALLY, ACCORDING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE
CLASSIFICATIONS, A SPECIFIC SUM FOR THE ACQUISITION
OF LAW BOOKS, LAW JOURNALS AND PERIODICALS, IN
PRINT OR ENCODED IN DIGITAL OR OTHER ELECTRONIC
FORMATS, THAT SHALL FORM PART OF PROVINCIAL
PUBLIC LAW LIBRARIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE
JURISDICTIONS FOR THE USE OF LAW STUDENTS,
LAWYERS, JUDGES AND COURT PERSONNEL

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby prescribed to be established in each and every province, preferably in its capital towns, a public law library, which could either be a section of a general public library or an altogether separate law library, to be determined by the Sangguniang Panglalawigan, with the approval of their respective Governors.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of implementing the requirements of the immediately preceding section, all provinces are hereby authorized and directed to include in their respective annual budgets an appropriation for the acquisition of law books, law journals and periodicals, in print or encoded in digital or other

electronic formats, that shall form part of the provincial public law libraries envisioned to be established by this Act.

To insure compliance with the intents and objectives of this Act, the annual appropriations to be made, earmarked and disbursed, shall be according to the following schedule of financial commitments:

- a) For First Class Provinces, not less than two hundred fifty thousand pesos (Php250,000.00) annually for three (3) years from and after the effectivity of this Act and thereafter not less than fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) annually.
- b) For Second Class Provinces, not less than one hundred and fifty thousand pesos (Php150,000.00) annually for three (3) years from and after the effectivity of this Act and thereafter not less than thirty thousand pesos (Php30,000.00) annually.
- c) For Third Class Provinces, not less than seventy five thousand pesos (Php75,000.00) annually for three (3) years from and after the effectivity of this Act and thereafter not less than fifteen thousand pesos (Php15,000.00) annually.
- d) For Fourth Class Provinces, not less than fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) annually for three (3) years from and after the effectivity of this Act and thereafter not less than ten thousand (Php10,000.00) annually.
- e) For Fifth Class Provinces, not less than twenty five thousand pesos (Php25,000.00) annually for three (3) years from and after the effectivity of this Act and thereafter not less than one thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) annually.

SECTION 3. As the research materials required by judicial, quasi-judicial, administrative bodies and law schools in each and every province may vary, the provincial governments concerned

shall consult with the appropriate chapters of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines as to which books, journals, periodicals or other publications, in print or encoded in digital or other electronic formats, that they recommend to be more relevant, timely or necessary, if the legal profession is to be adequately supported in their requirements for research, case studies, preparation of legal briefs and court pleadings and in the formulation of position papers on policy-determining matters.

SECTION 4. As a measure of their own reciprocal commitment to the objectives of this Act, the appropriate chapters of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines shall, in their respective areas of concern, be urged and encouraged to adopt such programs or systems in holding fund campaigns, as are calculated or designed to augment the books, journals, periodicals or other publications, in print or encoded in digital or other electronic formats, in said provincial public law libraries from grants or donations from private sources.

SECTION 5. The University of the Philippines Law Center is hereby authorized and directed to assist the provinces in the formulation of the proper framework for the build-up of public law libraries and shall advise and recommend to them, through appropriate bibliographies, of available publications, the sources and costs of law books, law journals and periodicals.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED,