

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4383

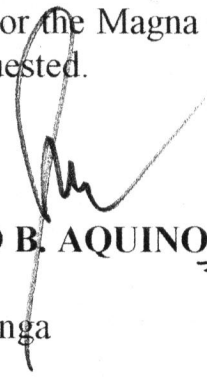
Introduced by **Honorable Dr. Reynaldo B. Aquino**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Library consists of collection of books and other informational materials made available to people for reading, study, or reference. Its central mission is to collect, organize, preserve, and provide access to knowledge and information. Since libraries provide information and services that are essential to learning and progress, they should also be made available to disabled persons who can be as productive as normal persons if given sufficient information and access. After all, learners with special needs who cannot avail of institution-based programs and services must not be denied access to the wealth of wisdom and information available in libraries.

If many libraries in other countries have made significant modifications to their buildings and to their collections in an effort to provide the disabled community with the access to library resources and services, there is no reason why we cannot do the same.

Thus, to complement our very own RA No. 7277 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


DR. REYNALDO B. AQUINO,
Representative
3rd District, Pampanga

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4383

Introduced by **Honorable Dr. Reynaldo B. Aquino**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING PUBLIC LIBRARIES SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR
THE DISABLED, EQUIPPED WITH ACCESS TO INFORMATION,
LIBRARY RESOURCES, AND RESEARCH

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

SECTION 1. DECLARATION OF POLICY – Pursuant to the constitutional mandate that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all, and encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs, it is hereby declared an operative policy of the government to bring within the reach of disabled Filipino people the services of state of the art materials and equipment for easier access to information, library resources, and research they need for learning.

SEC. 2. MATERIALS, VISUALS, AND OTHER FACILITIES – The Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, with the cooperation of the private sector, shall provide reading materials printed in Braille system (a system of raised dots that can be read by touch) for the visually impaired, books on tape (audio recording of books, commonly known as talking books), and large print magazines and books for users with limited sight.

Among other things, they shall also add entrance ramps and elevators to provide wheelchair users greater access to library buildings. Aisles in the book stacks shall be widened to allow the same patrons easier access to library materials.

SEC. 3. AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM – This special program shall be made available not only in highly urbanized areas but in rural areas as well, where sophisticated access to information like the internet and other similar resources are not presently available.

SEC. 4. LIBRARY STAFF – The library staff shall consist of three levels of employees: professional librarians, support staff, and part-time assistants. These employees shall undergo training which expenses shall be shouldered by the government.

SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS – The Secretary of Department of Education, in coordination with the Head of the Commission on Higher Education, shall issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from the approval hereof; provided however, that the non-issuance thereof shall in no way prevent the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. TAX-FREE FACILITIES – All materials, equipment, and facilities imported under this special program shall be free from all taxes and duties, including all excise and value added taxes imposed by the government on the equipment in the transactions and in the acquisition thereof.

SEC. 7. RESOURCES – The government shall provide various grants to these public library districts for specific development projects. In addition, these libraries shall actively solicit financial assistance from private individuals, organizations, and corporations. For this purpose, a special committee that seeks gifts and grants from various private sources shall be created by the Dep Ed and the CHED.

SEC. 8. SOLICITATION AND AGREEMENTS – The Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education, subject to existing rules and regulations, may solicit and enter into agreements with any local and foreign organization and/or governments who can contribute to the attainment of the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVITY – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

A P P R O V E D .