

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 484

Introduced by HONORABLE JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

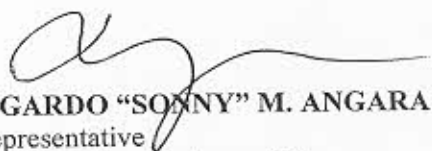
Belief in the potential of every child – this is the rationale of this proposal mandating the establishment of municipal libraries.

This bill aims to give as many children as possible the chance to develop their potential. It would be a pity if the talent in a child which would flower if tended should be left to wither because the child has no access to informative reading materials. This bill hopes to see all children grow to the apex of their capabilities.

One of the tenets of the establishment of municipal libraries is that students develop and maintain steady and regular reading habits. This system encourages parents to help their children establish a set time period everyday for their reading.

The mission of the establishment of municipal libraries is to expand the potential of every child to the limit and through this, dedication to education, contribute to national development and the progress of mankind.

Thus, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

Introduced by Honorable JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PROGRAM FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
LIBRARIES NATIONWIDE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBERED SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND FORTY THREE,
ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
CONGRESSIONAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY
READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING
THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES".

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3
4 "SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the
5 national policy to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the
6 people: elevate the literacy level of every Filipino to the end that illiteracy is
7 eradicated by the end of the century; and recognize the vital role of
8 knowledge and information in nation-building by establishing public
9 libraries in every congressional district, **PROVINCIAL**, city and
10 municipality, and reading centers in every barangay [throughout the
11 Philippines] **NATIONWIDE**."

12
13 **SEC. 2.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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15 "Sec. 2. *Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading Centers.* —
16 The National Library in coordination with [the Department of the Interior
17 and Local Government (DILG)] **LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS**
18 **(LGUS) CONCERNED** shall undertake the establishment of [additional]
19 public libraries to serve all congressional districts, **PROVINCIAL**, cities
20 and municipalities in the [Philippines] **COUNTRY** and reading centers in
21 every barangay except in cities or municipalities where there are existing
22 public libraries or in barangays where there are existing reading centers:
23 *Provided*, That the establishment of such **PUBLIC** libraries and reading
24 centers shall be [based] **CONSISTENT AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
25 [on] the **MASTER** development program of the National Library: [, in
26 coordination with the development council] **PROVIDED FURTHER**,

1 THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL, CITY AND
2 MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND/OR BARANGAY READING
3 CENTERS IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY IS
4 INCLUDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVED BY THE
5 RESPECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS [of each city or
6 municipality and in the case of the barangay reading centers in coordination
7 with the respective barangay councils]: *Provided further* MORE, That, where
8 these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the National Library,
9 TOGETHER WITH THE LGUS HOSTING THESE PUBLIC
10 LIBRARIES shall continue AND PURSUE PROGRAM to upgrade the
11 facilities thereof.
12

13 "The National Library shall continue to coordinate and organize seminars,
14 workshops and other trainings for the professional benefit of librarians
15 NATIONWIDE."
16

17 SEC. 3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:
18

19 "Sec. 3. *Role of the National Library.* — The National Library
20 shall HELP AND ASSIST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT,
21 PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES, IN
22 THE ENHANCEMENT AND UPGRADING OF LIBRARY
23 MATERIALS AND FACILITIES, TO INCLUDE BUT, NOT
24 LIMITED TO, THE PROVISION OF THE FOLLOWING: [provide
25 the standard set of] reference books and other materials, TO INCLUDE
26 AMONG OTHERS, [such as but not limited to] encyclopedias,
27 dictionaries, maps and globes [upon the establishment of the libraries].
28 [The National Library] IT shall continue to supply the public libraries
29 with the other books, non-book materials, equipment supplies and other
30 appropriate and relevant reference and reading materials taking into
31 consideration the needs of the community concerned."
32 ||

33 SEC. 4. There is hereby a new section to be inserted and labeled as Section 4 of
34 Republic Act No. 7743 to read as follows:
35

36 SEC. 4. *ROLE OF THE LGUS.* — TO EFFECTIVELY
37 ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF THE OPERATION OF PUBLIC
38 LIBRARIES, THE LGUS CONCERNED SHALL APPROPRIATE
39 AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) FROM THEIR
40 ANNUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF) TAX
41 COLLECTIONS WHICH SHALL BE UTILIZED FOR THE
42 MAINTENANCE OF THE LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND
43 FACILITIES, THE PURCHASE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS AND
44 OTHER NECESSARY EXPENSES THAT MAY BE INCURRED IN
45 THE COURSE OF OPERATION.
46

47 LGUS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SALARY AND
48 OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF LIBRARY PERSONNEL EXCEPT
49 THE SALARY AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS OF RESIDENT
50 PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS WHICH SHALL BE GOTTEN
51 FROM THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY.
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53 SEC. 5. There is hereby a new section to be inserted and labeled as Section 5 of
54 Republic Act No. 7743 to read as follows:

1
2 **SEC. 5. APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS.**
3 **— THE SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC**
4 **LIBRARIANS SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MERIT**
5 **AND FITNESS PRINCIPLE. THE APPOINTMENT OF**
6 **PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIANS IN ALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN**
7 **THE PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS SHALL BE**
8 **MANDATORY AT LEAST ONE (1) YEAR AFTER THE**
9 **EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT. PURSUANT TO THIS, ALL**
10 **HEADS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS)**
11 **CONCERNED SHALL ENSURE THAT BUDGETARY**
12 **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EFFECTIVELY**
13 **IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE**
14 **INCLUDED IN THEIR ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS. IN THE**
15 **CASE OF THE BARANGAY READING CENTERS, HOWEVER,**
16 **APPOINTMENTS TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARIAN POSITION**
17 **SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:**
18 ***PROVIDED, HOWEVER,* THAT APPOINTMENTS TO THE SAME**
19 **POSITION IN PERMANENT CAPACITY SHALL BE SUBJECT**
20 **TO THE SET REQUIREMENTS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE**
21 **COMMISSION.**

22
23 **SEC. 6.** Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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25 **“Sec. [5.] 7. Period of Implementation.** — The overall national
26 plan of implementation shall cover initially a period of five (5) years:
27 *Provided,* That those congressional districts, cities and municipalities with
28 no existing public libraries as well as barangays situated in remote,
29 isolated and rural areas, shall have priority in the allocation of resources.
30

31 Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
32 National Library in [consultation with the DILG] **COORDINATION**
33 **WITH LGUS CONCERNED,** the **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT,**
34 **PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEER** [Department of
35 Public Works and Highways (DPWH)] and the **DIVISION SCHOOLS**
36 **SUPERINTENDENT CONCERNED OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
37 **EDUCATION (DEP.ED.)** [different local government units], shall come
38 out with [the list of priority areas, taking into account the commitment of
39 the local government units in the establishment and maintenance of public
40 libraries and barangay reading centers] **A PROGRAM FOR THE**
41 **EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS**
42 **ACT.**

43
44 **SEC. 7.** Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

45 **“Sec. [7.] 9. Appropriations.** — The **SEED** amount **OF FIVE**
46 **HUNDRED MILLION PESOS FOR EVERY YEAR FOR TWO (2)**
47 **YEARS SHALL BE APPROPRIATED FROM THE UNEXPENDED**
48 **INCOME OF THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES**
49 **(PCSO). ON THE THIRD YEAR OF THE PROGRAM AND**
50 **THEREAFTER, THE AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED MILLION**
51 **(PHP100,000,000.00)** [allocated necessary to carry out the provisions of
52 this Act] shall be included in the **ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE**
53 **NATIONAL LIBRARY.** [General Appropriations Act of the year
54

1 following its enactment into law and for the next five (5) years;
2 thereafter,] T[t]he local government units shall undertake the maintenance
3 of public libraries and reading centers while the National Library shall
4 continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the said libraries and
5 reading centers.”

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7 SEC. 8. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follow:

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9 “Sec. [9.] 10. *Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days
10 from the approval of this Act, the National Library, in coordination with
11 the [DILG] **REPRESENTATIVES FROM LEAGUES OF**
12 **PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES** and the Philippine
13 Information Agency (PIA), shall promulgate the implementing rules and
14 regulations.”

15
16 SEC. 9. All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and
17 other issuance, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are
18 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

19
20 SEC. 10. This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least two (2) national
21 newspapers of general circulation.

22
23 Approved,
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