

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 579

INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMAN PEDRO P. ROMUALDO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has been fourteen (14) years since the passage of Republic Act No. 8047 entitled "An Act Providing For the Development Of The Publishing Industry Through The Formulation And Implementation Of A National Book Policy And A National Book Development Plan".

Through the years, the public has been clamoring for good quality books for our elementary and secondary schools especially for the public school system. Many issues have cropped up during the past years attributed to poor editing, poor quality content of instructional materials and misprinting of books. It has been seen by industry stakeholders from the academe, publishing, printing and the public in general as a failure to implement stricter policies to avoid this repetitious problem in our educational system.

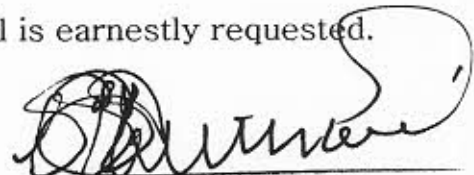
The amendments being introduced here is to provide the Department of Education the primary responsibility to commission the development of textbooks and instructional materials to duly accredited government and private institutions with technical expertise and capability on particular subject areas to ensure that we will have better content quality textbooks and instructional materials for elementary and secondary public schools which are comparable with the private elementary and secondary schools.

Certain standards and competencies must be observed by publishers and institutions commissioned by the Department of Education in developing those syllabi, manuscripts and other instructional materials which must pass through appropriate testing, evaluation, selection and approval.

For better transparency and for the information of the public, the Department of Education shall post in its website the list of registered publishers and other industry allied services with transactions with the Department, National Book Development Board or with the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat. It shall also indicate the type of service being offered, status of contract being undertaken or have already implemented with these agencies, company officers, complete office address and important contact details.

It is hoped that through these amendments, the Department of Education can fulfill its mandate and protect the greater interest of the public. It is their prime duty to inculcate better values, enlighten the minds of the students through the use of visual aids, relevant instructional materials and hands-on application of basic theories and principles to ensure that we will have quality and competent graduates in the elementary and secondary public schools.

Your support for the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



PEDRO P. ROMUALDO

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AN ACT

AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8047 ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY THROUGH THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONAL BOOK POLICY AND A NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT PLAN"

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8047 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 10. Public School and Textbook Publishing. - The DECS shall [consult] HAVE THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a. xxx
- b. xxx
- c. xxx
- d. xxx

E. COMMISSIONING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS TO DULY ACCREDITED GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS WITH EXPERTISE ON CERTAIN SUBJECT AREAS.

The printing of public elementary and secondary school textbooks shall be done on a regional or provincial level [, whenever economically feasible] UPON FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT THAT ARE AVAILABLE AND DULY ACCREDITED LOCAL PRINTERS WHICH CAN MEET THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

xxx

Section 2. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 8047 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 11. Participation of Private Publishers in the Public School Textbook Program. - [Guided by the minimum learning competencies for the elementary level, the desired learning competencies for the secondary level,

and other specifications prepared by the DECS, publishers shall develop and submit to the DECS those syllabi and/or prototypes and manuscripts or books intended for use in the public schools for testing, evaluation, selection and approval.]

COMMISSIONED PUBLISHERS AND INSTITUTIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL SUBMIT THOSE SYLLABI AND/OR PROTOTYPES AND MANUSCRIPTS OR BOOKS FOR USE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR TESTING, EVALUATION, SELECTION AND APPROVAL USING AS GUIDES THE PHILIPPINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEARNING COMPETENCIES (PELC) FOR THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL AND THE CURRICULUM STANDARDS (CS) FOR THE SECONDARY LEVEL AND SUCH OTHER SPECIFICATIONS PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,

Section 3. Section 6 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section. 6. Registration of Entities. – Persons and enterprises engaged in book publishing and its related activities shall register with the National Book Development Board.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL POST IN ITS WEBSITE THE LIST OF REGISTERED PUBLISHERS AND OTHER INDUSTRY ALLIED SERVICES WITH TRANSACTIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE NATIONAL BOOK DEVELOPMENT BOARD OR WITH THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS COUNCIL SECRETARIAT. IT SHALL ALSO INDICATE THE TYPE OF SERVICE BEING OFFERED, STATUS OF CONTRACT BEING UNDERTAKEN OR HAVE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED WITH THESE AGENCIES, COMPANY OFFICERS, COMPLETE OFFICE ADDRESS AND IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS.

THIS LIST SHALL BE UPDATED REGULARLY AND SHALL BE PUBLISHED IN AT LEAST ONE (1) NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION AND ONE (1) REGIONAL-BASED NEWSPAPER FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC.

Section 4. Insert a new Section to be read as the new Section 13 of Republic Act No. 8047 to read as follows and the succeeding Sections be renumbered accordingly:

SECTION 13. PERSONNEL OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS COUNCIL SECRETARIAT. – THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL PERSONNEL AT THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS COUNCIL SECRETARIAT TO PERFORM EDITORIAL FUNCTIONS NOT LIMITED TO REVIEWING, EDITING, PROOFREADING, RECOMMENDING APPROPRIATE ILLUSTRATIONS, CHECKING THE BOOK DESIGN AND LAYOUT PRIOR TO MASS PRINTING. THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS TECHNICAL PERSONNEL SHALL ALSO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE TOGETHER WITH THE AUTHORS AND EVALUATORS AS TO THE CONTENT QUALITY OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.

THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF THE ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL PERSONNEL SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS COUNCIL SECRETARIAT.

Section 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or section of this Act is declared unconstitutional for any reason whatsoever such declaration shall not in any way affect other parts or sections of this Act.

Section 6. *Repealing clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, amended or repealed.

Section 7. *Implementing rules and regulations.* – The Department of Education, the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat and National Book Development Board shall draft the implementing rules and regulations to implement this Act in consultation with various industry stakeholders not limited to duly recognized publishing and printing groups.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in two (2) major daily newspapers of national circulation.

Approved.