

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1192

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.



LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1192

Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

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:

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

6 **SEC. 2.** For the purpose of implementing the requirements of the
7 immediately preceding section, all provinces are hereby authorized and
8 directed to include in their respective annual budgets an appropriation for
9 the acquisition of law books, law journals and periodicals, in print or

1 encoded in digital or other electronic formats, that shall form part of the
2 provincial public law libraries envisioned to be established by this Act.

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

6 a. For First Class Provinces, not less than two hundred fifty
7 thousand pesos (₱250,000.00) annually for three (3) years
8 from and after the effectivity of this Act and thereafter not
9 less than fifty thousand pesos (₱50,000.00) annually.

10 b. For Second Class Provinces, not less than one hundred and
11 fifty thousand pesos (₱150,000.00) annually for three (3)
12 years from and after the effectivity of this Act and thereafter
13 not less than thirty thousand pesos (₱30,000.00) annually.

14 c. For Third Class Provinces, not less than seventy five thousand
15 pesos (₱75,000.00) annually for three (3) years from and
16 after the effectivity of this Act and thereafter not less than
17 fifteen thousand pesos (₱15,000.00) annually.

18 d. For Fourth Class Provinces, not less than fifty thousand pesos
19 (₱50,000.00) annually for three (3) years from and after the
20 effectivity of this Act and thereafter not less than ten
21 thousand (₱10,000.00) annually.

22 e. For Fifth Class Provinces, not less than twenty five thousand
23 pesos (₱25,000.00) annually for three (3) years from and

1 after the effectivity of this Act and thereafter not less than
2 one thousand pesos (P5,000.00) annually.

3 **SEC. 3.** As the research materials required by judicial, quasi-
4 judicial, administrative bodies and law schools in each and every province
5 may vary, the provincial governments concerned shall consult with the
6 appropriate chapters of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines as to which
7 books, journals, periodicals or other publications, in print or encoded in
8 digital or other electronic formats, that they recommend to be more
9 relevant, timely or necessary, if the legal profession is to be adequately
10 supported in their requirements for research, case studies, preparation of
11 legal briefs and court pleadings and in the formulation of position papers
12 on policy-determining matters.

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

21 **SEC. 5.** The University of the Philippines Law Center is hereby
22 authorized and directed to assist the provinces in the formulation of the
23 proper framework for the build-up of public law libraries and shall advise
24 and recommend to them, through appropriate bibliographies, of available

1 publications, the sources and costs of law books, law journals and
2 periodicals.

3 **Sec. 6.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,