

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1435

Introduced by Honorable CARMELO F. LAZATIN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Section 17, Chapter 2, Book 1 of the Local Government Code of 1991 mandates the establishment and maintenance of public libraries in the cities, provinces, municipalities and barangays in the local government units as one of the basic services and facilities for the continuing intellectual nourishment of the citizenry. Yet despite the presence of this law, some local government units lack a formal and permanent staffing pattern that shall manage the affairs of the Public Library.

Further, although Republic Act 6966 otherwise known as the, "Philippine Librarianship Act of 1990 has regulated the practice of librarianship thru the Board of Librarians of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and elevated the status of librarians to be at par with other professionals, the position of the Provincial, City and Municipal Librarian is not given equivalent recognition and importance by its exclusion as one of the mandatory.

Thus, this bill seeks to provide for the inclusion of the Office of the Public Librarian as one of the mandatory positions in local government units in recognition to the essential role of librarianship as a profession in developing the intellectual capacity of the citizenry making library services as a regular component for national development.

Towards this end, the establishment of the Office of the Public Librarian in various local government units shall be geared towards the recognition of the vital role of knowledge and information technology in nation building.

In view of the foregoing premises, approval of this bill is ardently sought.


CARMELO F. LAZATIN
First District, Pampanga

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1435

Introduced by Honorable Carmelo F. Lazatin

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC
LIBRARIANS AMONG THE MANDATORY POSITIONS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the “Public Library Act”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to further promote literacy and dissemination of knowledge through the establishment of the Office of the Public Librarian as one of the mandatory positions in local government units in recognition to the essential role of librarianship as a profession in developing the intellectual capacity of the citizenry making library services as a regular component for national development.

SECTION 3. *Enforcement of the Act.* – Towards this end, this Act shall mandate every local government unit (LGU) to establish a city or municipal library headed by the Public Librarian.

SECTION 4. *Qualifications.*– In order to serve as a Public Librarian, an applicant or appointee must possess the following:

- a. A Bachelors degree in Library Science and/or a Masters and post-graduate degree in a related field;
- b. Career Service Professional Eligibility; and
- c. At least three years experience in librarianship, office management and other related fields.

SECTION 5. *Assisting Entries* – The Civil Service Commission (CSC) shall formulate the staffing pattern and corresponding salary including assessment of the qualification of the library staff. The National Library of the Philippines, on the other hand, shall provide technical supervision and material support to all public libraries.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*– The Department of Budget (DBM) shall allocate an annual amount corresponding to the financial needs of the office.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provisions or part hereof, is invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule of regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,