

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 2096

Introduced by Honorable Danilo E. Suarez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, to be globally competitive, needs to modernize its information technology and comprehensively implement a computer literacy education program in both the elementary and high school levels. The private education sector has long been introducing its student population to computers, but the public schools, which educate the majority of our young people, remain lagging behind.

Almost always, the culprit is lack of funds to pursue and implement modernization measures in the educational system. Every year, general appropriations for the Department of Education increase, but still lack, in funds for the basics – construction of school buildings, increase in the number of teachers, trainings, printing and/or purchase of new textbooks, among others. Computer literacy education is not a top priority. With the country and the rest of the world reeling to Information Age, a concrete and decisive step should be done to uplift the quality of our public education to international standards.

This bill proposes to make it mandatory for all public schools in the country to have a comprehensive education program, in all levels. This bill likewise mandates sufficient funding for the program, as the same shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. With this, it is expected that our public schools will produce quality and computer-literate graduates. It is the call of the times. Our youth need not lag behind their counterparts in the private schools, even more those from other countries and give them the opportunity to possess a high literacy level in this era of information technology.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly and urgently sought.


DANILO E. SUAREZ
Representative
3rd District, Province of Quezon

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AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL COMPUTER LITERACY EDUCATION
PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHE PURPOSES

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

Section 1. ***Creation of Special Computer Literacy Education Program for Public Schools.*** – There is hereby created a Special Computer Literacy Education Program for Public Schools, including state colleges and universities hereafter referred to as the Special Program, to promote a comprehensive computer literacy education in public schools, and utilize this knowledge as an effective instrument for the advancement of a globally competitive citizenry through computer technology.

Section 2. ***Mandatory in Primary and Secondary School Curricula.*** – It shall be mandatory for all primary and secondary schools to integrate computer education in their curricula.

Section 3. ***Computer Laboratory in State Colleges and Universities.*** – There shall be a computer laboratory in each state college and university under the Special Program.

Section 4. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Science and Technology, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management shall issue guidelines, rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days upon effectivity.

Section 5. ***Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the Special Program shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Section 6. ***Annual Report.*** – The Secretary of Education shall submit within fifteen (15) days from the opening of the regular session of Congress to the President of the Philippines, to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of both Houses of Congress, an annual report which shall include an account of the programs, projects and detailed expenses undertaken pursuant to this Act.

Section 7. ***Separability Clause.*** – In the event any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect

Section 8. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.