

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4327

Introduced by Representatives Salvador H. Escudero III, Anna York P.
Bondoc, Rufus B. Rodriguez and Marcelino R. Teodoro

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Public Education System has established school libraries as an institution to supplement basic books and reading materials to the subject area text books. School libraries are, however, installed only in secondary schools and if ever there are libraries in elementary schools, these are small and improvised structures erected through the initiative of the school head and teachers. More often than not, the reading materials that remained for use over the years in the classroom have become obsolete.

The school libraries are often housed in old and condemned buildings and housed obsolete books and even old newspapers and magazines so as to have the structure a semblance of a library. Recognizing this grave problem, the Department of Education thought of a novel and innovative structure that could serve as a warehouse of books and other reading materials initially to create in public schoolchildren the interest for reading with the ultimate vision of developing children imbued with a genuine habit and love of reading. This is anchored on the principle of learning that reading ability is a fundamental skill in problem solving and critical thinking.

This warehouse structure is aptly called Library Hub as distinguished from a school library because its main objective is to provide reading materials mostly in the form of story books which are stored in plastic bins ready for lending and distribution to public schools wanting to use the books as supplementary reading materials.

Foremost, the Library Hub has been uniquely established through partnership with people, individually or as organization, who takes charge of providing the physical structure or building that would house the reading materials. In 2003, the Library Hub Project was launched and in the same year, the first library hub, situated in Bacolod City, was inaugurated. Partners of the Hub, however, came in trickles and after three years, the Batch 1 of 35 library hubs came into being. After this batch, support from LGUs mostly Congressmen, Governors and Mayors and NGOs gathered momentum so that today after another two years, there are about 175 library hubs either completely installed or undergoing construction or building-renovation.

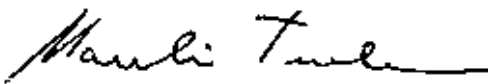
Institutionalizing the Library Hub Project of the DepEd through the passage of a law will ensure sustainability of the project and will generate continued support from partnership with different individuals and organizations. This will likewise ensure that the establishment of more library hubs can be provided to far flung provinces of the country where these are most needed.

The immediate approval of this noteworthy piece of legislation is hereby earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A LIBRARY HUB IN EVERY SCHOOLS DIVISION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as "Library Hub Act".
2

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to
4 establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education
5 relevant to the needs of the people and society. Towards this end, the government shall
6 endeavor to develop among pupils and students the love for and habit of reading with the aid
7 of an infrastructure called "Library Hub" that makes available reading materials to support
8 this project so that every child will become functionally literate and responsible citizens.
9

10 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be
11 defined as follows:
12

13 (a) *Library Hub*, also known as *Hub*, shall refer to a "warehouse and wholesale"
14 library located in a strategic place within a schools division and exclusively providing public
15 preschool, elementary and secondary schools with quality and adequate supplementary
16 reading materials arranged in plastic bins and sorted by subject area and grade or year level;
17

18 (b) *Library Hub Books* shall refer to BEC-curriculum specifics and value-laden
19 reading books intended for preschoolers to high school students, including SPED classes and
20 non-formal education learners;
21

22 (c) *Schools Division* shall refer to a division established by the Department of
23 Education (DepEd) in every province or city and which is headed by a schools division
24 superintendent;
25

26 (d) *Sponsors* shall refer to any person or organization from the government or from
27 the private sector who, in partnership with the DepEd, may signify their interest to sponsor a
28 Hub and who may support Hub renovation or new construction, provision of furniture and
29 equipment, additional books, computers or who may fund the salaries of additional personnel
30 in the Hub.

1 SEC. 4. **Establishment of Library Hub in Schools Division.** The library hub is
2 hereby established in schools division throughout the country and shall be under the
3 management of the DepEd. At least one (1) library hub shall be established in every schools
4 division which shall be equipped with adequate and varied quality supplementary reading
5 materials for public elementary and secondary schools.
6

7 The Hub shall in no way be converted into any other type of library (provincial, city,
8 municipal) or as a venue for activities other than what the Hub has been legally established
9 for.
10

11 All Hub properties shall be free from any promotional and political ads of any
12 sponsor/donor whether government or private.
13

14 SEC. 5. **Objectives.** The library hub project aims to:
15

- 16 a) Provide greater access to reading materials to all public school pupils and
17 students ;
18 b) Provide quality and appropriate books to public elementary and secondary
19 schools nationwide;
20 c) Develop the Filipino child's love for books and habit of reading; and
21 d) Support the development of reading and comprehension skills of public school
22 pupils and students.
23

24 SEC. 6. **Implementing Agency.** The authority to regulate the organization, operation
25 and/or implementation of the library hub project shall be vested upon the DepED, through the
26 schools division superintendent.
27

28 SEC. 7. **Staff Support and Compensation.** There shall be created a Hub staff in each
29 library hub which shall be composed of a librarian, an assistant librarian, a library aide, and a
30 utility worker.
31

32 The Hub staff shall receive a monthly basic salary based on the compensation
33 prescribed by the Salary Standardization Law, as amended.
34

35 In the absence of a regular staff to manage the Hub, the schools division
36 superintendent may hire contractual employees and charge their salaries against the Division
37 Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), subject to availability of funds.
38

39 SEC. 8. **Partnership Between the DepEd and Sponsors.** To augment other
40 requirements needed by the library hub project, the DepEd shall, as an alternative, enter into
41 partnership with prospective project sponsors. Any person or organization from the
42 government or from the private sector may signify their interest to sponsor a Hub.
43

44 The agreement between the DepEd and its sponsor shall be covered by a
45 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).
46

47 SEC. 9. **Tax Exemption on Donations.** All donations in any form to the library hub
48 project shall be exempt from the Donor's Tax and the same shall be considered as allowable
49 deduction from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor/sponsor,
50 in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as
51 amended.

1 SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
2 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as part of the appropriations of
3 the DepEd.

4
5 SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of the Department of
6 Education shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60)
7 days after the effectivity of this Act.

8
9 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and
10 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
11 modified accordingly.

12
13 SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the Official Gazzette.

15
16 Approved,