

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 4343

**Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**

**AN ACT
PROMOTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MOBILE LIBRARIES, PROVIDING
TACTICAL, AND INGENIOUS INITIATIVES FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For the longest time, libraries have been and shall always be the engines of civilization's progress. It is the repository of civilization's great traditions: the gathering and dissemination of hard-won human wisdom.

It is one institution that serves as the gateway to the past, the present and the future. In the library, one can find the resources to examine and confront our most difficult problems. Libraries provide individuals the weapon to hurdle obstacles and the remarkable power to change.

But recent years would prove, however, of the serious concern about the apparent decline in the utilization of libraries which is tantamount to a corresponding decline in reading.

In a nationwide survey on Filipino youth by McCann Erickson (*Philippine Business Magazine*, 2001) a couple of years ago reported that during free time, 88% watch TV, 73% listen to the radio, 50% read books, 37% use the internet and 12% use cell phones. According to educator Patricia Licuanan in her paper "Books and Schools" delivered in 2007, the above mentioned figures may have dramatically changed since this particular survey reveals the introduction of cell

phone and internet usage. She observed that, "in contrast to subways in Tokyo and New York, hardly anyone reads in our MRT and LRT lines. Those who do, most of the time, read the tabloids offered free by major broadsheets. In public schools, teachers lament how students no longer read, the same case once they reach their homes. Moreover, their parents no longer buy/read newspapers preferring to spend their 20 pesos on food or transportation."

Dr. Licuanan further stated, "the decline in reading is generally attributed to a number of factors. Poverty has been identified as one major culprit. Poor children have little access to reading materials in school and at home considering them a luxury more than a necessity. To further compound things, libraries in poor communities are often inferior and are open less. But then again, we have also counter examples to show how the decline in the reading culture may not be completely attributed to poverty as homes of well-off families often have toys and gadgets more visible than books. Increased participation in a variety of electronic media, including the internet, video games, and portable digital services has been found to correlate with the decline in reading. Spending for electronics has surpassed spending for books."

This legislation is being proposed with the humble objectives of: (1) promoting the establishment of mobile libraries; and (2) bringing these libraries closer to the users and encouraging citizens to, once again, read books and other useful and informational materials.

Due to the reasons stated above, the expeditious approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be cited as the "Mobile Libraries Act of 2011."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is declared a policy of the State to protect and promote the right of citizens to quality education and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Towards this end, the State shall provide the necessary framework and resources for the implementation of educational programs, projects and services; encouraging local initiatives for the improvement of the citizens.

Toward this end, it is the objective of this Act to give meaning and accord full significance to the said constitutional provision by promoting one of the most significant aspects of education: reading. And the same can be achieved through the creation of mobile libraries.

The mobile library is a service or an activity of many types of libraries. It is settled to facilitate users who find it inconvenient to go to the library because of

the distance, time, expense, lack of knowledge on library, and the lack of reading habit.

SECTION 3. *Government Initiative in the Creation of Mobile Libraries.* – Beginning the year this Act is approved, the amount of One Hundred Million pesos (Php 100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated from the combined earnings of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO). The budgetary support must be continued for seven (7) years or longer, upon reasonable determination of the usefulness, relevance and effectiveness of mobile libraries as tools for education and empowerment of citizens.

The National Library of the Philippines shall be the main government agency to implement the provisions of this Act. The National Library shall consult relevant and concerned private and public offices, non-government organizations, members of the academe and local government leaders on matters that will best promote and implement the establishments of mobile libraries and its effective utilization.

SECTION 4. *Incentives for Private Corporations that will Adopt, Donate or Establish Mobile Libraries.* – The Department of Finance shall issue the relevant guidelines that will provide fiscal and tax incentives to private companies, organizations and foreign donors that will adopt, donate or establish mobile libraries in the country.

SECTION 5. *Other Activities That Can Be Sponsored by Mobile Libraries.* – To implement the objectives and aims of this Act, mobile libraries can be used to sponsor and conduct book weeks, book fairs, book clubs, recognition rites for frequent borrowers, displaying new books and featured selections/collections, exposition of library instruction programs, among others.

Mobile libraries can also engage in sponsoring livelihood programs, walking tours of historic and cultural heritage areas, socio-economic workshops and trainings and others.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The National Library of the Philippines in consultation with relevant offices shall issue the necessary rules and regulations sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,