

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4762

Introduced by: **HONORABLE JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The advantages of the use of information technology in schools cannot be overemphasized. With more and more information, including instruction, available on the Internet, and new technologies making computers increasingly portable, schools are presented with many new opportunities for enhancing and supplementing classroom instruction through technology. However, schools are currently faced with the challenge of making sure that all students have easy access to the benefits of this technology.

With this, the government should exert every effort to make these benefits available to students. One way of ensuring this is making Internet available to school children, especially in far-flung areas. This bill is thus proposing to establish broadband connection in all public schools across the country. This is with the end view of accelerating learning for all students by providing wider means of accessing the Internet, and with it, the vast and limitless information it offers for the advancement of education.

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



JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District of Aurora

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE IN ALL
PUBLIC SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*School Broadband Act of 2011.*"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

SECTION 3. *Installation of Broadband Technology in All Public Schools.* In recognition of the vital role that information and technology play in promoting access to quality education, all public schools throughout the country shall be equipped with broadband technology. This is in furtherance of the state's commitment to support and enhance the learning opportunities of students. By bringing in broadband technologies to our educational institutions, this would enable students easy and fast access to the vast information available on the Internet, improve their social and educational connection with other schools, and enhance their awareness and knowledge on world developments, among others.

SECTION 4. *Distribution of Broadband Techonology.* The installation of broadband technology shall be based on the needs of the school and the existing facilities in a given local government unit. Broadband technology shall first be provided to the public schools with the highest number of enrolment in all capital towns and key cities throughout the country. No broadband facility shall be installed in another school in the same municipality unless and until all the biggest public schools in all capital towns and key cities across the country shall have been installed with at least one broadband technology.

SECTION 5. *Implementation.* The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Commission on Communications and Information Technology (CICT), shall be responsible for the administration and monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of this act, and shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within thirty (30) days from its effectivity. *Provided*, that given limitations in resources, implementation shall be done in tranches, within a ten-year period upon effectivity. *Provided, further*, that priority shall be given to schools offering both elementary and high school education.

SECTION 6. *Monitoring Progress and Implementation.* The DepEd, in coordination with the CICT, shall submit to Congress regular reports on the progress of the implementation of

this Act. These reports shall be submitted annually or as determined in the implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sum as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the sum necessary for the continuous operation of this Act shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Education.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.