

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 295



Introduced by **Rep. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) offers the amazing advantages of its application in almost all undertakings of our modern society. Undoubtedly, this technology has significantly proven its use in improving the quality and efficiency of the education system. It is affecting all subjects, especially in basic education, not only altering teaching opportunities because of its new perspectives on communication and dissemination, but also opening up exciting new resources for learning. Simply put, it allows for the 'maximization' of learning.

We say that we have to prepare the Filipino youth to meet the challenges of this new technology. The youth must be updated on the latest advances of this technology to fully tap their inner talents and contribute to national development. But how can this be realized if the providers of knowledge themselves are not equipped with the advantages of such technology. The sad fact is that a great number of teachers, especially those in basic education, are not even acquainted with the basics of ICT. Much more of the ICT's useful and relevant application in classroom teaching.

This bill is a timely response to the demand of this modern era of teaching. Its intent holds the promise of providing a new learning experience among our students, a unique way of arousing in these young people as much interest in learning as they have playing games on the computer.

This piece of legislation aims to institute certain policies and mechanisms that will strengthen training programs for teachers that will provide them significant knowledge and skills on information and communication technology (ICT), enabling them to apply computer-aided teaching methodologies and digital tools and techniques in their classroom activities. Intending to make ICT a way of life among our basic education teachers, this bill provides a framework of actions that will not entail cost from our government that is already heavily burdened by the huge finances of providing quality education to its people. In order to realize its objectives at no cost as much as possible, the provisions of this bill rely on the capacity of the concerned stakeholders to draw the appropriate policies, to set the right directions, to recognize the importance of collaboration, and to realize the meaning of self-sufficiency, towards improving the quality of our teachers. Under this proposal, the mandates to strengthen ICT training programs for basic education teachers are lodged in all levels, from the national to local leadership of the Department of Education, with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and non-government organizations, as well as business entities,

For the above-mentioned reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "EM" followed by a flourish.

EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY

House of Representatives

House Bill No. _____ 295

Introduced by Rep. Eulogio “Amang” R. Magsaysay

AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR BASIC EDUCATION TEACHERS PROVIDING CERTAIN POLICIES AND MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Teachers’ Information and Communication Training (ICT) Program Act of 2013”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Constitution provides that the State shall give priority to education, science and technology to accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. In recognition of the teachers’ indispensable role in molding the minds of our youth, the Constitution further provides that the State shall enhance the right of teachers to professional advancements. In pursuance of these mandates, it is hereby declared to be the policy of this Act to institute certain policies and mechanisms that will strengthen training programs for teachers that will provide them significant knowledge and skills on information and communication technology, enabling them to apply computer-aided teaching methodologies and digital tools and techniques in their classroom activities.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Unit in Every School.* – The School Heads shall initiate for the creation of an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Unit in their respective schools. The office shall be manned by at least one (1) academic or non-academic personnel, provided, that he/she shall have a specialization in computer education, computer technology, or in information and communication technology.

SECTION 4. *Regular Computer Education or ICT Seminars/Trainings.* - The Department of Education (DepED) is hereby mandated to institutionalize a system of free regular training program on computer education, and information and communication technology (ICT) for teachers in all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private.

SECTION 5. *Seminars and Trainings Outside the School.* – The school administration shall encourage attendance or participation of its faculty members in seminars and trainings outside the school related to computer, and information and communication technology, particularly those concerning its application to teaching methodologies, organized by private or professional groups. Teachers who have the specialization in computer education or information

technology shall be prioritized to participate. The cost of seminar-workshop maybe shouldered by the attending teacher provided that such is manifested in his/her own free will. Otherwise, upon determination of the necessity and usefulness of such seminar-workshop, the school administration shall arrange for it to shoulder the entire cost or subsidize the cost for the attending teacher/s. Provided, further, that such attending teacher/s must be required to convey or share what he/she/they learned with his/her/their co-teachers in an echo seminar.

SECTION 6. *ICT Training Collaboration.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall explore every possible collaboration for free information and communication (ICT) trainings with prospective private and non-government entities particularly those in the field of ICT, that will benefit a mass number of basic education teachers nationwide. The companies and other business entities that extend such free ICT trainings may claim the cost as tax credit.

SECTION 7. *Authorily vis-à-vis ICT Training Tie-Up Program Agreement.* - The local offices of the Department of Education (DepEd) --- Regional Office, Division Office, District Office, are hereby authorized to enter into a Training Tie-UP Program Agreement with any sponsoring company, agency or entity that will benefit the teachers and other personnel of the schools under their jurisdiction. Provided, that such agreement shall potentially contribute to the technology-related reform of teacher preparation and enhancement programs, and integration and application of information technology to classroom teaching. Provided, further, that such agreement shall not entail cost on the part of the government.

SECTION 8. *Partnership with the Local Government Units (LGUs).* – The Schools Division Superintendents, Schools District Supervisors, or the School Heads shall arrange a partnership with any of the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs) that will advance in any form or manner the need of their respective teachers and school personnel

SECTION 9. *Initiatives of the School Heads.* – The School Heads of all elementary and secondary schools, both public and private, are hereby enjoined to realize the objectives of this Act by exploring all the possible initiatives at their school levels, and within the resources of the school. The Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) of the school may also enjoined to include in its list of priority projects those that will advance or support the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Knowledge in Computer or ICT: A Requirement for Hiring of New Teachers.* – In hiring or recruiting of new teachers, the applicant's knowledge and skills in computer and information technology must be given certain considerations.

SECTION 11. *Implementation of the Program.* – Immediately after its approval, the Department of Education (DepEd) shall formulate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act, and ensure its effective implementation.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision in this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,