

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3518



Introduced by **HON. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The appreciation of literature has to be nurtured early in the young child and given expression through a stimulating environment and a cultural setting that highly values the written word.¹

“Why aren’t Filipinos reading?” One likely reason is that books are so expensive. For many families whose main income is spent on basic needs, buying a book for pleasure is a luxury.² Further, the availability of books in this country is a far cry from what it should be.³

If we are to fight mediocrity and encourage a lifetime of reading, we must value books and libraries. The present library in the Municipality of Balilihan, while facing limitations as to budget and personnel services, serves various towns and communities in the first district of the Province of Bohol.

It is envisioned that the establishment of this Congressional library in the Municipality of Balilihan, under the supervision of the National Library, will increase and improve the services offered by the library.

Reading is a lifetime insurance. The child who starts reading early, acquires a kind of insurance that will bring him educational dividends throughout his lifetime. He will never tire of learning, of seeking answers, or of imagining new possibilities in life.⁴ This is also a way of making available and accessible the books and other reading materials to the street children as well as the out-of-school youths.

In view of the foregoing considerations, the passage of this law is earnestly sought.


RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS

¹ Building Bridges, by Nina Lim-Yuson, 2000, page 96

² Ibid, page 78

³ Ibid, page 75

⁴ Supra

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3518

Introduced by **HON. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**
First District, Bohol

**“AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A BALILIHAN CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF BALILIHAN, PROVINCE OF BOHOL AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the direct technical supervision of the Director of the National Library of the Philippines, a Congressional Library in the Municipality of Balilihan, Province of Bohol.

SEC. 2. The present Congressional library in Balilihan shall be named as the Balilihan Congressional Library.

SEC. 3. The Director of the National Library shall appoint Librarian III, II and I, Administrative Assistant Encoder, and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, *provided*, that, all appointments shall be in accordance with the Civil Service Act and its implementing rules and regulations, and *provided further*, that, their salaries and allowances shall be in accordance with the Salary Standardization Law and other applicable laws.

SEC. 4. The sum of five million pesos (Php 5,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of any funds from the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the maintenance and operation of the library for the current fiscal year. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the purpose of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and thereafter in the succeeding General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,