

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4754



Introduced by **Kabataan Party-list Representative Terry L. Ridon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Even with the advent of the Internet, textbooks remain to be the main vehicle of learning in most of our educational institutions, especially in public basic education schools. Unfortunately, our public schools still suffer from a severe shortage in textbooks. The ideal textbook to student ratio should be 1:1, but at present, a single textbook is still shared by 3 students (1:3).

The Philippine government – both the Executive and the Legislative branches – have strived to close this textbook shortage in our public basic education institutions by annually allocating billions of pesos for textbooks and instructional materials. Yet due to compounded factors, including the recent change in the curriculum to the K-12 Program and the onslaught of calamities such as Supertyphoon Yolanda, such actions have yielded little result in improving the textbook-to-student ratio. Even our public school libraries are greatly lacking, with shelves either remaining empty for years, or with the school collection filled with outdated books.

Due to lack of reading materials, the habit of reading is not instilled in the Filipino youth at an early age. There is indeed a need, not only to provide adequate instructional materials but also to create programs that would instill and regain the Filipino student's interest in reading books. These programs should be innovative and efficient, and should involve various sectors of our country.

Institutionalizing a National Book Drive program is one effective way of gathering books that could alleviate the severe shortage in reading materials and textbooks in schools, and at the same time encourage public participation. Knowledge that we derive from books are after all meant to be shared and not to be treated as private goods. Aside from highlighting the importance of reading, a nationally-coordinated book drive will help boost public participation, especially of the youth, in socio-civic endeavors meant to raise a generation of readers.

Thus, this bill seeks to declare the fourth week of March of every year as the "National Book Drive Week" in order to engage school, organizations and various sectors in the community service through the book drives. The 4th week of March was chosen because of its ideal time to conduct the program since the last week of class is conducted during this period.

Students would no longer utilize their textbooks and reference or reading materials at this point of the year.

In light of the foregoing, we refile this bill first proposed by my predecessor, former Kabataan Rep. Raymond Palatino. The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. TERRY L. RIDON
Representative, Kabataan Party-list

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE FOURTH WEEK OF MARCH OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL
BOOK DRIVE WEEK

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** -This act shall be known as the "National Book Drive Week Act of
2 2014"

3
4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of policy.*** - The State recognizes and supports all endeavours and
5 ventures to promote reading considering that books are instrumental in the citizen's
6 political, social and cultural development. Books are the most effective and economical
7 tools for achieving educational growth, for imparting information and for recording,
8 preserving and disseminating the nation's cultural heritage.

9
10 **SECTION 3. *Definition of terms.*** - For purposes of this Act, the terms below shall be
11 construed as follows:

- 12
13 a. **Book.** - As defined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
14 Organization (UNESCO), a printed non-periodical publication of at least forty-eight (48)
15 pages, exclusive of cover pages;
16
17 b. **Textbook.** - As defined by the Republic Act 8047, a book which is an exposition of
18 accepted principles in one (1) subject, intended primarily as a basis for instruction in a
19 classroom or pupil-book-teacher situation;
20
21 c. **Book Drive.** - collection, sorting and redistribution of new or used books intended for
22 donation;
23

24 **SECTION 4. *National Book Drive Week.*** - The fourth week of March of every year shall be
25 declared as the National Book Drive Week. All educational Institutions, in elementary,
26 secondary, and tertiary levels, the Sangguniang Kabataan, and local government units are
27 mandated to provide full support and assistance to the events and activities to be conducted
28 in recognition of the National Book Week Drive. The books and other reading materials that
29 would be collected from various book drive efforts shall go to the public learning institutions

1 that have textbook shortages and public libraries in poverty stricken and marginalized areas
2 and communities.

3
4 **SECTION 5. *Coordination mechanism.*** – To ensure the effectivity and sustained inter-
5 agency and multisectoral coordination, the National Book Development Board shall serve as
6 the main coordinating agency together with the National Library, Department of Education,
7 Commission on Higher Education and the local government units as auxiliaries for the
8 implementation of this Act.

9
10 **SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The National Book Development
11 Board, in coordination with the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education,
12 National Library, Department of Interior and Local Government and non-government
13 organizations shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the
14 implementation of this Act.

15
16 **SECTION 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall
17 be incorporated in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

18 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuance,
19 and rules and regulations, or part thereof, inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

20
21 **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any section or provision of his Act shall be declared
22 unconstitutional, the remaining sections and provisions shall not be affected thereby.

23
24 **SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the
25 completion of its publication in the official gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,