

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8087



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill intends to amend Republic Act No. 7743, otherwise known as "An Act providing for the establishment of provincial, city, and municipal libraries and barangay reading center throughout the Philippines", to strengthen this legislation and help fully realize the intent of the law.

It seeks to improve on the current program by mandating that it be based on the latest computer and electronic library technology. It also seeks to upgrade the reading center facilities with complete standard sets of books, e-books, online research resources and other materials. The electronic library system shall also be upgrade to the latest system and that all cities and municipalities in the country be provided with electronically-operated library systems.

In keeping with the times and with the intent to improve our education system, we humbly submit this bill.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
8087
HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL, CITY, AND
MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTER THROUGHOUT
THE PHILIPPINES," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of RA 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading Centers. The National Library in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall undertake the establishment of additional public libraries to serve all [congressional districts] **PROVINCES**, cities and municipalities in the Philippines and reading centers in every barangay except in cities or municipalities where there are existing public libraries or in barangays where there are existing public libraries or in barangays where there are existing reading centers: *Provided*, that the [establishment of such libraries and reading centers shall be based on the development program of the National Library] **ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SHALL BE BASED ON THE LATEST COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY**, in coordination with the development council of each city or municipality and in the case of the barangay reading centers, in coordination with the respective barangay councils: *Provided*,

further, that where these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade the facilities there [.] **WITH COMPLETE STANDARD SETS OF BOOKS, E-BOOKS, ONLINE RESEARCH RESOURCES AND OTHER MATERIALS AS PROVIDED UNDER SEC. 3 OF THIS ACT AS WELL AS THE LATEST ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM USING COMPUTERS FOR STORING, CATALOGING, AND FILING OF DATA AND MATERIALS: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT BY THE YEAR 2022 ALL THE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH BE PROVIDED WITH ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM.**"

SECTION 2. Section 7 of RA 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 7. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law [and for the next five (5) years: thereafter this local government units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while the National Library shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the said libraries and reading centers]. **IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED, THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SHALL BE INCREASED IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P500,000,000.00) PER YEAR UNTIL ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE PROVIDED AND HAVE ACCESS TO FULL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FACILITIES.**

SECTION 3. Role of the DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT). – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall assist in the provision of the cutting-edge computer and electronic library technology, as well as a fast and reliable internet connection, through the Department's flagship program, the Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development (Tech4ED) Project.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,