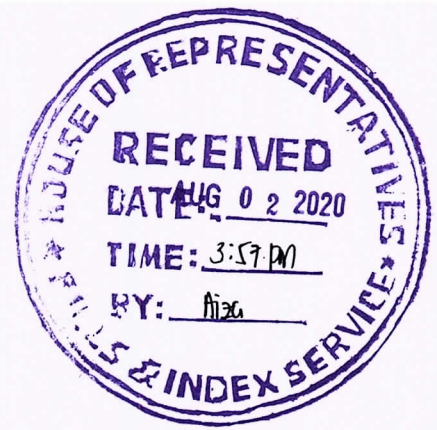


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7222



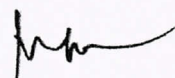
Introduced by **HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR**
Third District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The sudden and overwhelming effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has presented a huge challenge to our education system. The government has all of a sudden ceased face-to-face instruction for students in order to prevent the further spread of the virus. This sudden switch in the mode of teaching presented our education system very little time to prepare for online teaching and virtual education.

This proposed measure mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to establish and implement a viable, comprehensive and sustainable long-term modernization plan for public elementary, junior high and senior high schools. It shall likewise include steps through which all schools provide gadgets such as smartphones, tablet, or laptops, as well as mobile internet hotspots, to teachers and students without access to such equipment whenever face-to-face instruction is prohibited and blending learning modalities are being implemented.

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


REP. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 7222

Introduced by **HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR**
Third District, Bohol

AN ACT

**PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE MODERNIZATION,
CONNECTIVITY AND INNOVATION PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **Section 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*School Modernization,*
2 *Connectivity and Innovation Act of 2020.*”
3

4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote a comprehensive and sustainable modernization program for all public
6 elementary, junior high, and senior high schools aimed at improving the effectiveness,
7 efficiency, and resilience of the delivery of basic education, especially during disruptions
8 such as pandemics and other health emergencies. The State shall likewise take into
9 account the regional and sectoral needs and conditions in developing a viable long-term
10 school modernization, connectivity, and innovation plan. The State shall also encourage
11 the participation of the private sector and local government units in strengthening
12 programs which provide relevant and adequate skills training and equipment for public
13 school children necessary for them to be globally competitive.
14

15 **Sec. 3. Statement of Purpose.** – This Act seeks to attain the following objectives:

- 16 a) To provide a broad framework for the institutionalization of a comprehensive,
17 and sustainable modernization, connectivity and innovation program for public
18 elementary and secondary schools;

- b) To encourage the schools to become more innovative and resourceful in developing and implementing programs geared towards modernization;
- c) To develop mechanisms which will define the roles and responsibilities of the officials from the regional, division down to the school levels in the implementation of the school modernization programs;
- d) To provide mechanisms on how the private sector can participate in the program; and
- e) To define a regional, division and school modernization, connectivity, and innovation plan responsive to the needs of the students and teachers in the area.

Sec. 4. Implementing Agency. – The Department of Education, hereinafter referred to as the "Department", shall be the main implementing agency of the School Modernization and Innovation Act. The Secretary of Education shall be responsible for ensuring the smooth implementation of the modernization plan for schools.

Sec. 5. Components. – The School Modernization, Connectivity, and Innovation Program shall consist of the following:

- a) Computerization of public elementary and high schools. The DepEd, in coordination with other appropriate government agencies, shall determine the appropriate number of information technology (IT) equipment to be housed within school premises depending on the number of student enrollment. The Science high schools in every region nationwide shall be given priority in the allocation of funds for the computerization.
- b) Ensuring digital connectivity between students and teachers. All public elementary, junior high, and senior high schools shall endeavor to provide gadgets such as smartphones, tablets, or laptops, as well as mobile internet hotspots and other related apparatuses, to every student and teacher without access to such equipment, whenever face-to-face instruction is prohibited and blended learning modalities are being implemented. The schools shall be responsible for establishing and implementing the system through which students and teachers may rent, lease, or purchase at subsidized rates the aforementioned equipment needed for digital connectivity.

- 1 c) Upgrading of Libraries in public elementary and secondary schools. A well-
2 equipped library shall be established in every public elementary and secondary
3 high school. The library should be provided with at least five (5) computers,
4 which have Internet access to assist the students in their research work.
- 5 d) Promotion of an integrated distance-learning program. The distance learning
6 program aims to enable the students from local and foreign private schools to
7 share their knowledge and expertise in the areas of Science and Technology,
8 Mathematics, English and Communication to students in public schools through
9 modern system of instructional and communication technology. It may adopt an
10 interactive system of instruction through television, modern satellite
11 communication or cable system, or the Internet, whichever is appropriate and
12 feasible in the area. The students as well as teachers in public schools shall be
13 provided with opportunities to avail of the latest trends and developments in the
14 field of educational, science, technology and communication even from abroad
15 through distance learning programs.
- 16 e) Upgrading of Science Laboratories. Each public elementary and high school will
17 be provided with well-equipped science laboratories with modern science
18 equipment, which is essential in improving the competencies of the students in
19 the area of science and technology.

20
21 **Sec. 6. *Phased Implementation of the Program.*** – The Department shall
22 implement the program in phases to ensure continuity and sustainability of the projects.
23 The phases of implementation will be determined according to the priorities set by the
24 Department as well as the absorptive capacity of the schools.

25
26 **Sec. 7. *Financing of the Program.*** – The Department of Budget and Management
27 shall allocate at least ten percent (10%) of the total appropriations of the annual budget
28 of the Department for the financing of the School Modernization and Innovation
29 Program.

Sec. 8. Formulation of School Modernization and Innovation Plan at School and Regional Level. –

- a) National Modernization and Innovation Plan. The Secretary of Education, in consultation with Regional Directors and Schools Division Superintendents, shall develop a comprehensive and sustainable modernization and innovation plan for public elementary and secondary schools nationwide which will be implemented within a period of five (5) years. It shall take into account the rapid changes in the field of information technology, communication and instructional delivery in various part of the world. It shall also identify sources of funding both from local and international financial institutions as well as the role of private sector, local government units and other members of the civil society. It shall likewise define the national standards and framework, which will be adopted in developing the individual plans.
- b) Regional Modernization and Innovation Plan. The Regional Director, in coordination with the Schools Division Superintendents, shall formulate a modernization framework consistent with national standards which will serve as the basis for the plan taking into consideration the specific needs, and requirements of the region. The regional plan shall highlight the peculiarities and unique needs of the various schools within its jurisdiction.
- c) School Modernization and Innovation Plan. Each school shall formulate its own 5-year modernization plan which reflects the aspirations and goals of the school based on the regional plan of action. The plan shall consist of an assessment of the existing needs of the school as well as an inventory of existing educational facilities, priority programs for the allocation of funds, strategies to mobilize financial resources to augment regular budget and strategies to manage the use of personnel, physical and fiscal resources. The individual plans of the schools shall be submitted to the regional offices for consolidation.

Sec. 9. School Modernization and Innovation Trust Fund. – A School Modernization and Innovation Fund, hereinafter referred to as the Fund, is hereby established, exclusively to augment the regular appropriations provided under Section 7 of this Act to finance the priority programs for school modernization and improvement of public elementary and secondary schools.

a) The government's contribution to the Fund shall be the following:

1. The amount of Fifteen Billion Pesos (P15,000,000,000.00) as seed capital;
2. The equivalent of ten percent (10%) of the annual gross earnings of the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR);
3. The equivalent of 10% annual share on the total gross collections of the travel tax;
4. The equivalent of 10 %of any additional increase annually in the fees for vehicle registration;
5. The equivalent of 2% of the additional increase annually in revenue collections;
6. The equivalent of 10% of the sales of the lotto operations of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Offices (PCSO).

The fund shall have a private portion to be raised from donations and gifts and other conveyances including materials, equipment, properties and services by gratuitous title.

b) The fund shall be *distinct* and separate from the schools' regular allotment for maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE).

c) The Department shall be authorized to use the annual interest income of the Trust Fund provided that the expenditures will be used directly for the implementation of the modernization programs and not on the regular programs of the Department: *Provided*, that 50% of the entire annual income shall be retained in the Bureau of the Special Treasury.

Sec. 10. Management and Administration of the Fund. – The Fund shall be administered by the Department of Education. For sound and judicious management of the Fund, the Department shall appoint a reputable government financial institution as portfolio manager of the Fund, subject to the following conditions:

As administrator of the Fund, the Department shall prepare the necessary guidelines for its use, subject to the following conditions:

- a) No part of the seed capital of the Fund, including earnings thereof shall be used to underwrite overhead expenses of the administration;
- b) Unless otherwise stipulated by the private donor, only earnings of private contributions shall be used for administrative expenses;

- 1 c) The Department shall appoint and organize a separate staff that will be
2 independent administratively from the Department. It shall also enjoy fiscal
3 autonomy from the Department.
4

5 **Sec. 11. Assistance from Local Government Units.** – Each local government unit
6 (LGU) shall allocate at least 5% of their Special Education Fund to augment the
7 appropriations for the financing of programs in line with the thrusts of the school
8 modernization and innovation program.
9

10 **Sec. 12. Uses of the Fund.** – The School Modernization and Innovation Fund shall
11 be used to finance the following:

- 12 a) Projects, which have been approved and certified as priority by the National
13 Executive Committee and Regional Modernization Committees created under
14 Section 13 based on the guidelines and criteria formulated by the Department;
15 b) In-service training of the teachers in the areas of computer literacy, instructional
16 communication technology, and other topics relevant to online, blended, and
17 multiple platform-based learning;
18 c) Procurement of equipment, including the maintenance thereof, for computer
19 laboratories, audio visual and multimedia facilities;
20 d) Procurement of science equipment for science laboratories in schools; and,
21 e) Procurement of gadgets for digital connectivity and online learning, which
22 includes but is not limited to smartphones, tablets, and laptops.
23

24 **Sec. 13. Order of Priority in the Allocation of Funds.** – In order for the school to
25 be given priority in the allocation of funds from the School Modernization Innovation
26 Trust Fund, the following criteria should be met:

- 27 a) The programs, which will be funded, should be in line with the formulated
28 regional and school modernization plans;
29 b) The school should have mobilized additional 40% counterpart funding from the
30 local government unit, private corporations, foundations, business groups or
31 private individuals for every program which will be implemented.

- 1 c) The programs have been approved by either the Regional Modernization
2 Committee or the National Executive Committee, or both depending on the
3 funding required.
4

5 **Sec. 14. Selection Process.** – The individual schools nationwide are directed to
6 develop project proposals in line with the modernization thrusts of their region and
7 submit to their respective regional offices to determine its feasibility and contribution
8 to the overall thrusts of school modernization in the country.

9 A National Executive Modernization Committee shall be established. It shall be
10 headed by the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Undersecretary for
11 Programs and Directors of Elementary and Secondary Education and two
12 representatives from the private sector. It shall be in-charge in evaluating projects with
13 national application and coverage.

14 A Regional Modernization Committee headed by the Regional Director and
15 composed of three Division Superintendents and two Representatives from Parent
16 Teachers Association in the region shall be established to evaluate all project proposals
17 at the regional level. The Regional Modernization Committee shall have the authority to
18 approve and recommend release of funding for projects with a funding requirement of
19 up to One million pesos (P1,000,000.00).

20 However, the approved project proposals with a funding requirement of more
21 than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) will be forwarded to the National Executive
22 Modernization Committee chaired by the Secretary of Department of Education or his
23 duly designated representative for final review and approval.

24 The Department shall promulgate guidelines for the selection of the project
25 proposals, which will be funded by the School Modernization and Innovation Fund.
26

27 **Sec. 15. Private Sector Participation.** – The members of the private sector are
28 hereby encouraged to provide technical and/or financial support to the schools as they
29 pursue their modernization plans. The private corporations, foundations, business
30 groups or individuals who shall provide support to modernization programs shall be
31 allowed to deduct from their gross income 100% of the expenses directly used to
32 finance the implementation of the program in the schools.

1 The schools which would be able to seek at least 40% counterpart funding
2 support from private corporations, foundations, business groups individuals as well as
3 local government in their respective local communities shall be given the priority the
4 provision of direct grants and funding from the School Improvement and Innovation
5 Fund particularly in programs which are mentioned in Section 9.

6
7 **Sec. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of Education
8 shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within (90) ninety days after
9 the approval of this Act.

10
11 **Sec. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is
12 subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are
13 not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

14
15 **Sec. 18. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
16 orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
17 which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby
18 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

19
20 **Sec. 19. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,