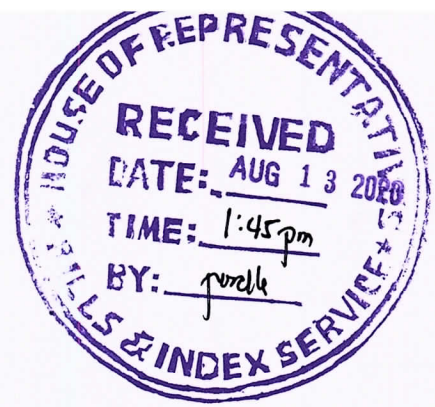


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7380**



Introduced by Representative JAKE VINCENT S. VILLA

**AN ACT
TO PROVIDE FOR DIGITAL EDUCATION**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

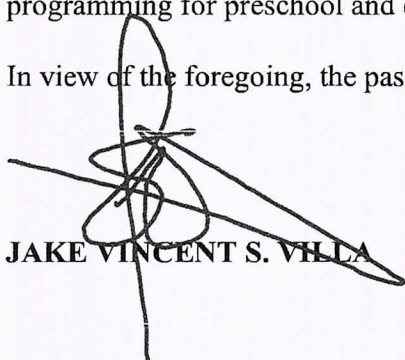
The Section 17, Article 2 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, provides:

The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

During these trying times, social distancing and work from home arrangements are becoming the standard and norm for safety and productivity. With the advent of digital age and rapid development of technologies, the national government can take advantage of this situation to ensure quality basic education and learning for the entire country.

The vision of this measure is to digitalized the learning process for basic education. A scenario in which children and there parents, whether poor or of means, have easy access to basic education through digital platforms and technologies. Learning through television stations, websites and mobile apps will become the norm for basic education. This measure seeks to incorporate ready-to-learn television programming and its application to other technological platform in the country by forging partnerships between the Department of Education and qualified and eligible television and broadcasting entities and other media developers in order to develop, produce, and distribute educational and instructional video programming for preschool and elementary school children and their parents.

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


JAKE VINCENT S. VILLA

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Digital Education Act.”

SECTION 2. *Ready-To-Learn digital television.* –

- (1) **IN GENERAL** – The Secretary of the Department of Education is authorized to award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, eligible television and broadcasting entities to develop, produce, and distribute educational and instructional video programming for pre-school and elementary school children and their parents, patterned after the Ready-To-Learn television program in the United States applied to existing technological developments available to the public.
- (2) **AVAILABILITY** – In making such grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, the Secretary shall ensure that eligible entities make programming widely available, with support materials as appropriate, to young children, their parents, and childcare workers.

SECTION 3. *Educational programming.* –

- (1) **AWARDS** – The Secretary shall award grants, contracts, cooperative agreements to eligible entities to. –
 - (a) facilitate the development directly, or through contracts with producers of children and family educational television programming, of –
 - i. educational programming for pre-school and elementary school children; and

- ii. accompanying support materials and services that promote the effective use of such programming;
- (b) facilitate the development of programming and digital content especially designed for nationwide distribution over public television stations' digital broadcasting channels, Internet and mobile applications, containing Ready-To-Learn-based children's programming and resources for parents and caregivers; and
- (c) enable eligible entities to contract with entities (such as public telecommunications entities) so that programs developed under this section are disseminated and distributed –
 - i. to the widest possible audience appropriate to be served by the programming; and
 - ii. by the most appropriate distribution technologies.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES** – to be eligible to receive a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (1), an entity shall be –

- (a) a public telecommunications entity that is able to demonstrate a capacity for the development and national distribution of educational and instructional television programming of high quality for preschool and elementary school children;
- (b) able to demonstrate a capacity to contract with producers of children's television programming for the purpose of developing educational television programming of high quality for preschool and elementary school children; and
- (c) Media developers, including but not limited to, web based developers, mobile application based developers who demonstrate similar qualifications from the immediately preceding paragraphs.

(3) **CULTURAL EXPERIENCES** – Programming developed under this section shall reflect the recognition of diverse cultural experiences and the needs and experiences of both boys and girls in engaging and preparing young children for schooling.

SECTION 4. Duties of the Secretary. – (1) To award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible entities, local public television stations, or community-based organizations of demonstrated effectiveness, for the purpose of –

- (A) addressing the learning needs of young children in limited english proficient households, and developing appropriate educational and instructional television programming to foster the school readiness of such children;

(B) developing programming and support materials to increase family literacy skills among parents to assist parents in teaching their children and utilizing educational television programming to promote school readiness; and

(C) developing and disseminating training materials, including –

- i. interactive programs and programs adaptable to distance learning technologies through web based interaction and mobile application that are designed to enhance knowledge of children's social and cognitive skill development and positive adult-child interactions; and
- ii. support materials to promote the effective use of materials developed under subparagraph (B) among parents, early childhood development personnel, elementary school teachers, public libraries, and after-school program personnel caring for pre-school and elementary school children;

(2) to establish within the Department of Education a clearing-house to compile and provide information, referrals, and model program materials and programming obtained or developed under this part to parents, child care providers, and other appropriate individuals or entities to assist such individuals and entities in accessing programs and projects under this part.

SECTION 5. *Application.* – Each entity desiring a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

SECTION 6. *Reports and evaluations.* –

(1) **ANNUAL REPORT TO SECRETARY** – An eligible entity receiving funds under this Act shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an annual report which contains such information as the Secretary may require. At a minimum, the report shall describe the program activities undertaken with funds received, including –

- (A) the programming that has been developed directly or indirectly by the eligible entity, and the target population of the programs developed;
- (B) the support materials that have been developed to accompany the programming and the method by which such materials are distributed to consumers and users of the programming;
- (C) the means by which the programming developed under this section has been distributed, including the distance learning technologies that have been utilized to make programming available and the geographic distribution achieved through such technologies; and
- (D) the initiatives undertaken by eligible entity to develop public-private partnership to secure support for the development, distribution and broadcast

of educational and instructional programming.

(2) **REPORT TO CONGRESS** – The Secretary shall prepare and submit to relevant committees of Congress a biannual report which includes –

(A) A summary of activities assisted; and

(B) A description of the training materials made available, the manner in which outreach has been conducted to inform parents and childcare providers of the availability of such materials, and the manner in which such materials have been distributed in accordance with such section.

SECTION 7. *Funding.* – There are authorized such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Education shall, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.