

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 10005



Introduced by the Honorable Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic has further sped up the advancement of the digital world. The swift need to adjust to the demand of the times have somewhat forced the citizenry to make use of technology more in their daily lives.

One of the most affected is the education sector, which has completely abandoned the face-to-face modality of instruction for the time being due to risks of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. This shift posed many problems, which primarily boiled down to the preparedness of the system to adapt to changes and availability of resources.

Teachers and students alike had to find ways to make the new system of distance learning work despite difficulties in its implementation. It is especially difficult for impoverished students to learn when they have no available resources to participate in the online classes.

As such, this bill proposes the establishment of a system that will encourage and promote the donation and recycling of electronic gadgets. The donated electronic gadgets which are still fit-to-use for distance learning shall be distributed to indigent students. This will certainly bridge the gap between the effective implementation of distance learning and lack of available resources to implement it. On the other hand, donated electronic gadgets which are already irreparable and unusable shall be turned over to accredited facilities capable of recycling electronic gadgets.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology shall lead the implementation of this program, with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as collaborating agencies.

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


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM FOR THE DONATION AND RECYCLING OF
ELECTRONIC GADGETS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Promotion of Donation and Recycling of Electronic Gadgets Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. It is also the policy of the State to promote and protect the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards these objectives, a system that will encourage the donation and recycling of electronic gadgets shall be set up so that they can be properly recycled and disposed, or potentially distributed to indigent students.

SEC. 3. *Electronic Gadgets Donation and Recycling Program.* – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall establish a program that will encourage and promote the donation and recycling of electronic gadgets.

SEC. 4. *Beneficiaries of Donated Electronic Gadgets.* – Donated electronic gadgets which were determined by the DICT as fit-to-use for distance learning shall be turned over to the Department of Education (DepEd) for distribution to indigent students.

SEC. 5. *Disposal and Recycling of Electronic Waste.* – Irreparable electronic gadgets shall be turned over to facilities which can properly dispose and recycle electronic gadgets and their components. These facilities shall be accredited by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

SEC. 6. *Accountability Through Donation Tracking.* – The DICT shall incorporate into the program a system that will allow the donees to track the status of their donation for accountability purposes.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DICT, in consultation with DENR and DepEd and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,