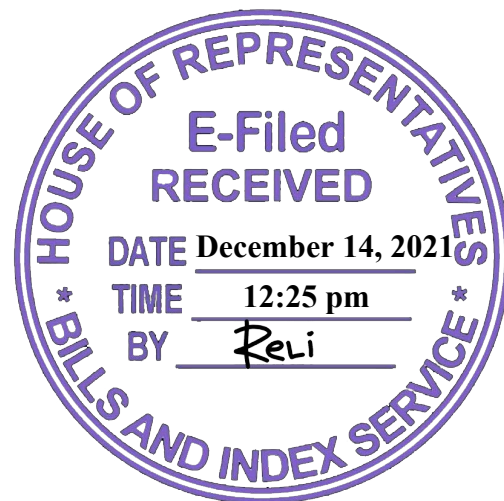




Eighteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10622**



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE LOREN LEGARDA

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 7743, otherwise known as "An Act Providing for the Establishment of Congressional, City and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers throughout the Philippines, Appropriating the Necessary Funds Thereof and for Other Purposes" by ensuring that all public libraries adhere to the demands of a globalized Filipino nation.

Republic Act No. 7743 was enacted to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the Filipinos by increasing the literacy rate and emphasizing the significant role of education in nation-building through the establishment of public libraries and/or reading centers in all local government units. Following the law, the number of public libraries and/or reading centers should reflect the number of barangays, municipalities, cities, provinces, or congressional districts in the country. However, based on a 2018 report, there are only 1,455 public libraries and of which only 40% are active.

The immense need to ensure that the country's public libraries and reading centers are sufficiently equipped to tackle the mounting concerns in the education sector especially during this time of pandemic comes in the wake of reports by both local and international individuals and organizations citing the declining access and quality of education which negatively affects the learning outcomes and prospects of the country's youth.

This proposed measure ensures that funds necessary to implement the law are provided for and increased annually until all cities and municipalities have access to full electronic library facilities. Furthermore, the bill requires the development council of each city or municipality to ensure that their library centers and/or reading

centers have the latest technological equipment needed to provide electronic library services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need to provide accessible learning materials to our educators and students alike. There is a need to equip public libraries with the latest computer and electronic library facilities to make sure that Filipino students have access to a wide variety of up-to-date learning materials.

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



LOREN LEGARDA



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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 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, 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 reading centers: Provided, That the establishment such libraries and reading centers shall be based on the development program of the National Library **BASED ON THE LATEST COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY** in coordination with the development council of each city or municipality under Sec. 106 of the Local Government Code 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 thereof **[.] WITH COMPLETE STANDARD SETS OF BOOKS 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 MATERIAL; PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT BY THE YEAR 2024, ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES BE PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM."**

SECTION 2. Sec. 7 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 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, the 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 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 MILLION PESOS (P5,000,000.00) PER YEAR UNTIL ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE PROVIDED AND HAVE ACCESS TO FULL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FACILITIES.**"

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, order, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,