

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10750



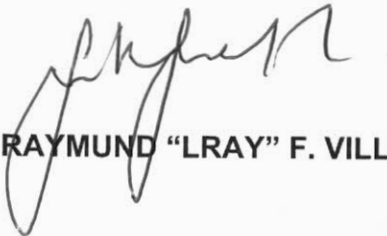
Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE "ONE TABLET, ONE STUDENT" PROGRAM FOR ALL
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STATE UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The shift to digital learning is a big part of the changes that were brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, access to computers or other learning gadgets and the internet remains a challenge.

This proposed measure seeks to aid students enrolled in public schools and State Universities and Colleges by giving them tablets or other similar learning devices. This is an important move to close the digital divide in education and take full advantage of available technologies for learning.

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


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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

CHAPTER I
TITLE AND DECLARATION OF POLICY

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall also be known as the "One Tablet, One Student Act"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels. Further, the State shall take appropriate measures to make education accessible to all particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEC. 3. One Tablet, One Student Program. – The One Tablet, One Student program is hereby established to provide each public elementary and secondary student as well students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges a tablet computer ("tablet") each to enable them to effectively participate in online learning; Provided, that students who already have their own personal learning gadgets shall be given educational assistance in the form of an internet allowance to cover the cost of connectivity.

SEC. 4. Implementing Agencies. – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are hereby tasked to implement the One Tablet, One Student program and shall:

1. develop a comprehensive system to determine the eligibility of students who will qualify under the said program;

2. develop an efficient and expeditious distribution system; and,
3. formulate guidelines on usage, maintenance and accountability for the tablets.

SEC. 5. Appropriations. – An amount of two hundred billion pesos (P200,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated in the succeeding General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DepEd and CHED, in coordination with the local government units through the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall promulgate all the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation not later than thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act. The DepEd and CHED shall publish such rules and regulations once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in newspapers of general circulation.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. – If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provision thereof shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,