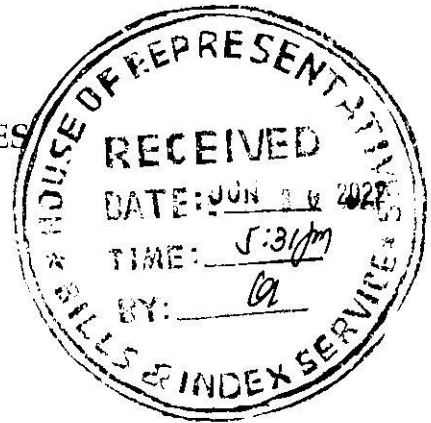


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **453**



Introduced by Representatives JEFFREY SORIANO, ERIC G. YAP, PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, EDVIC G. YAP, JOCELYN P. TULFO, and RALPH TULFO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that 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.”

The proliferation of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a toll on our educational system, showcasing the imminent need for accessibility and availability of alternative modes of learning to at least alleviate the repercussions of the pandemic not only in terms of the quality of our educational system but also to the well-being of our students and teachers. In particular, the distance learning has been incorporated as the primary mode of learning during the pandemic. From there, we could infer that most of our students, as well as teachers, have already struggle with such mode of learning due to lack of resources. Some even decided not to pursue their given the additional barriers they cannot easily overcome.

To eradicate these hindrances in our educational system, this bill seeks to establish at least one *E-Learning Center* in every municipality and city in the country. It shall serve as a venue wherein people from all walks of life can access information and communication technologies for learning. This shall benefit not just the youth, but also adults who seek to gain further knowledge and develop new skills.

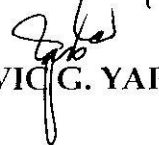
In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JEFFREY SORIANO


PAOLO Z. DUTERTE


ERIC G. YAP

JOCELYN P. TULFO


EDVIC G. YAP

RALPH TULFO

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House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Representatives JEFFREY SORIANO, ERIC G. YAP, PAOLO Z. DUTERTE, EDVIC G. YAP, JOCELYN P. TULFO, and RALPH TULFO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN E-LEARNING CENTER IN
EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, 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 “E-Learning Center Act of 2020.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared policy of the State to provide institutional mechanisms for education to be made available and accessible for the Filipino people, without discrimination on the basis of age, sex, ethnicity, culture, religion, or ability.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of E-Learning Centers.* – There shall be established at least one (1) e-learning center in every city and municipality in the Philippines; *Provided*, That additional e-learning centers shall be established such that there is one e-learning center per 50,000 persons in every city and every municipality with a population of more than 100,000 persons; *Provided, further*, That where e-learning centers already exist, its upgrading shall be undertaken, while existing public libraries and reading centers shall be upgraded into an e-learning center.

SEC. 4. *Functions of E-Learning Centers* - It shall make available:

- a. Printed materials, such as books, journals, newspapers, magazines, posters, maps, and charts;
- b. Audio-visual aids or media, such as film, television, and radio;

- c. Digital devices, such as desktop or portable computers and electronic blackboards, equipped with appropriate software and stable Internet connection to access online courses, e-books, and other online resources, as well as enable web conferencing;
- d. a space provided with stable and secure wi-fi connection;
- e. a venue for alternative learning classes, training, presentations exhibitions, lectures, seminars, workshops, debates, and other learning activities;

SEC. 5. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, shall undertake the construction of e-learning centers or the repair and rehabilitation of existing e-learning centers according to mutually agreed specifications, criteria and details; *Provided, That* the design of the e-learning center shall ensure a conducive learning environment, as well as provide sufficient space for educational materials, equipment, and administrative services.

The National Library of the Philippines shall provide the standard set of relevant printed and audio-visual materials and shall digitize its catalog and collections to provide free and full offsite access.

The Department of Information and Communication Technology shall provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure reliable Internet connection and maximize digital technology in e-learning centers. DepEd and DICT shall jointly develop digital educational materials for use in e-learning centers, as well as mobile applications and similar software that will enable remote access to CLC materials and other sources of information.

SEC. 6. *Role of Local Government Units.* – Cities and municipalities shall provide the site for e-learning centers and shall undertake its operation and maintenance. Local government units (LGUs) may allocate such funds necessary for the operation and maintenance of e-learning centers from the Special Education Fund, upon approval and authorization of the Local School Board.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the implementing agencies and shall be thereafter included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with the National

Library of the Philippines, Department of Information and Communication Technology, Department of Interior and Local Government, and other concerned government agencies and civil society, organizations, shall formulate and issue the necessary guidelines to effectively implement the provisions of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of other provisions hereof.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders and issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,