

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1582



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Introduced by

**HON. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**  
and  
**HON. JUDE A. ACIDRE**

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**AN ACT**  
**DIGITIZING ALL BOOKS NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND**  
**ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ONLINE LIBRARY, PROVIDING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Online Library and mandate the digitizing of all textbooks necessary for the public education of elementary and secondary students to ensure access to and availability of learning materials and references.

The COVID-19 pandemic has manifested the significance of digital technology, especially in the lives of children, serving as an important tool for their education, socialization, expression, and inclusion. Schools shifted to online learning and offices and workplaces moved to remote work.

Thus, digitizing textbooks and references and the creation of this online library will match the pace of the emerging technologies. This will enable the students to have an enhanced learning experience, ensure that they are skilled

in using computers, and have an equal access to the increasingly digitized world.

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



**Rep. YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ**  
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan



**Rep. JUDE A. ACIDRE**  
Representative, Tingog Sinirangan

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

**Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Philippine  
Online Library Act of 2022.*”

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to ensure that its citizens are computer literate and are provided access to an increasingly digitized world. Thus, the State shall provide its citizens with the opportunity to increase their adaptability with information and communications technology, and to enhance their learning experience by providing access to digitized copies of textbooks necessary for the provision of quality primary and secondary education.

**Section 3. Philippine Online Library.** – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall create a digitized copy of all textbooks and reference books it deems necessary for the public education of Philippine elementary and secondary students. This shall be compiled in the Philippine Online Library

which shall be jointly managed by the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT).

**Section 4. *Provision for Access to the Digitized Copies of Textbooks.*** - The Department of Education shall ensure access to the digitized copies of textbooks by providing computers, laptops, or appropriate wherewithal to all primary and secondary public schools nationwide. Similarly, to ensure access to the digitized copies of textbooks, the Department of Information and Communications Technology shall provide fast and reliable internet access to each primary and secondary public school.

**Section 5. *Recycling of Computers.*** - In order to offset expenses related to the procurement of computers, laptops, or appropriate wherewithal necessary for the immediate execution of the provisions of this Act, national government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, and other government financial institutions which shall procure new computers shall endorse their old units to the Department of Information and Communications Technology to check if the computers can still be used for the intent of this Act and afterwards shall be given to the Department of Education for deployment to primary and secondary public schools nationwide.

**Section 6. *Additional Online Educational Materials.*** – The Department of Education can tap the National Library of the Philippines to complement the Philippine Online Library's digital repository of textbooks with additional materials that is representative of Filipino culture and literature. DepEd shall also be allowed to add other online materials that it deems necessary for expanding the learning opportunities of students.

**Section 7. *Custody over Digitized Copies of Textbooks.*** – The Department of Education and the National Library of the Philippines shall have joint custody over the digitized copies of the textbooks. The Department of Information and Communications Technology shall likewise ensure the technological management of the digital repository to ensure the integrity of the system.

**Section 8. Appropriations.** – The initial amount of Five Hundred Million (Php500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the immediate implementation of this Act and shall be jointly managed by the Department of Education and Department of Information and Communications Technology. An annual budget of One Hundred Million (Php100,000,000.00) will be included in the annual budget of the Department of Education to make sure that the equipment and internet connection of public schools for the purpose of this Act will be maintained.

**Section 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and the National Library of the Philippines shall have joint responsibility over the formulation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective execution and enforcement of this Act. They shall do so in close coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and other stakeholders. The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be released within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act.

**Section 10. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 11. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 12. Effectivity.** - 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.

Approved,