

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 2491



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

No less than the Constitution recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building. For this reason, it gives primacy to the value of education as enshrined in Section 17 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution, which mandates that the State shall give priority to education, science education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. But the ideals set forth by the highest law of the land can be achieved only through the State's fervor in recognizing the constant evolution in the field of education and improvements in current pedagogical methods - which it has failed to do for the longest time.

While the COVID-19 is first and foremost a health crisis, its effects have trickled down to other sectors, such as the education sector. Because of the pandemic, education is moving online in an unprecedented and unforeseen manner. Suddenly, blackboards are outmoded, classrooms are obsolete, and schools are empty. Everything is changing, and it seems that our educational system cannot keep up.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the State of neglect in our public school education system. It made glaring the fact that the nation falls behind in terms of equipping our public school teachers with the necessary tools to adapt to a disrupted educational sphere.

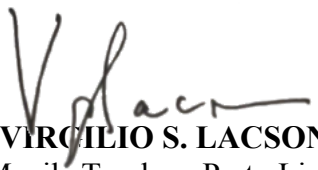
About 24.7 million elementary and high school students enrolled for the Academic Year 2020 – 2021. But many of our public school teachers remain fazed by the challenges brought by the mode of instruction in the new normal. Our teachers are called upon to immediately adapt to blended learning, which involves both online and offline methods of instruction.

At present, the efforts in providing our teachers with financial and equipment aid are localized. While the actions of our local governments are highly valued, these actions still fall short in terms of guaranteeing that each and every public school teacher throughout the country is well-equipped with the technological advances essential in shifting to blended learning.

Whereas the measures provided in this bill have been long overdue, there has never been a more wanting time for the State to address a pressing concern in our education system – that is the lack of technological resources among our public school teachers.

This bill aims to mandate the provision of computers, web cameras, and internet connection devices to our public school teachers to enable them to perform their duties in this time of blended learning and provide for allowances for internet connectivity to complement the use of the tools mentioned above. This bill will ensure that our teachers are equipped to mold the next generation of Filipinos into full-fledged and productive members of our Society. It is through this Bill that we can, in one way, realize the potential of the youth and achieve the ideals set forth in our Constitution.

In light of the foregoing, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.



VIRGILIO S. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party List

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 2491

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR COMPUTERS AND OTHER RELATED TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS 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 “*Teachers Tech Up Act of 2020.*”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to assure the effective and efficient delivery of public education, and in doing so, provide adequate equipment and resources to our public school teachers, aiding them in their preparation and delivery of their lessons and classes, remotely and face-to-face. Accordingly, the State shall provide every public school teacher with computers, web cameras, internet connection devices, and other necessary technical equipment, in addition to those already provided by the State for the execution of their mandate.

Section 3. Provision of computers, web cameras, internet connection devices and other necessary technical equipment. – Every public school teacher shall be provided a computer with all the necessary implements such as updated operating systems and applications, complete software and hardware to render it sufficient, capable, and reasonably usable in real world settings for the preparation and delivery of school lessons, a web camera with the specifications to deliver clear and high resolution videos and images to facilitate distance learning, and an internet connection device, such as but not limited to routers, portable wi-fi routers, wi-fi adaptors, to ensure stable internet connectivity for the execution of their mandate to instruct and to educate in an efficient and effective manner.

Section 4. Provision for necessary maintenance and upkeep of equipment provided for in the preceding Section. – Any necessary expense for maintenance, upkeep, update of hardware or software due to reasonable use or outdateding thereof shall be borne by the State, but to be done by authorized service providers relating to the brand of the computer. Each computer provided to a public school teacher shall be of such quality to be expected to be reasonably usable according to the

V. Lacson

purpose of its issuance for at least five (5) years. After such a period from the date of the issuance of the computer, the teacher may seek the replacement by surrendering the same for a computer of equal or better specification and usability according to what is publicly available at the time of replacement. Such computers shall be owned by the State and held by the public school teachers in trust for the benefit of the State.

Section 5. Provision for internet connectivity allowance. – Each teacher, to complement the use of the tools provided to them herein, shall also be provided an allowance to ensure connectivity or internet access, with at least eight (8) gigabytes of data monthly.

Section 6. Implementing Rules. – The Department of Education and the Department of Budget and Management, as well as other concerned government agencies shall promulgate within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

Section 7. Funding. – At the time of the effectivity of this Act, an amount of sixty thousand pesos (P 60,000.00) per Public School teacher per annum shall be appropriated, thereafter the amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Education (DepEd) of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Section 8. Periodic Review for increases. – The Secretary of Education is hereby mandated to conduct a periodic review of the items of herein, taking into account the current rates of the necessary and incidental goods or services, and recommend any necessary increase in allowance or upgrade or update in the subject goods or services.

Section 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Placer', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.