

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2892**



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Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,**  
**HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA AND**  
**HON. NICOLAS ENCISO VIII**

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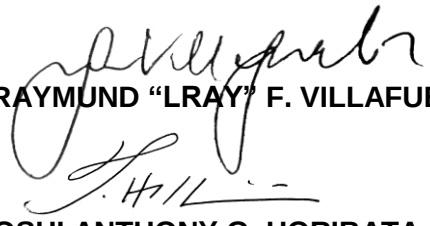
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced our students to shift in alternative learning methods including the online mode. With the abrupt transition from face-to-face to online classes, the education sector has encountered learning gap among its learners and rise in the number of out-of-school-youth. This is true especially to students from economically challenged families who have further suffered due to unavailability of electronic gadgets and internet connectivity.

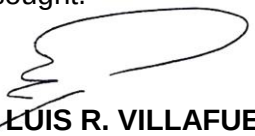
In a March 2021 survey by the Social Weather Stations, it revealed that 42% of school-age Filipinos currently enrolled do not use any distance learning device.<sup>1</sup> This means that a huge percentage of our children and youth have been disenfranchised with continuous delivery of education services due to lack of access to electronic devices. On the other hand, Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution declares that “The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.” Hence, it is imperative for the State to forward policy interventions that would effectively address these existing issues.

Towards this goal, this bill aims to institutionalize the “One Tablet, One Student” Program that seeks to provide a tablet computer (“tablet”) to each student from public elementary and secondary education, as well State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). However, those who already have personal learning gadgets shall be given educational assistance through internet allowance. The Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education were tasked to lead its implementation with an initial funding of two hundred billion pesos (Php 200,000,000,000.00). With this, the State makes online learning modality more accessible to students regardless of their economic status.

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

  
**LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

  
**TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA**

  
**MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE**

  
**NICOLAS ENCISO VIII**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1402187/42-of-school-age-filipinos-dont-use-devices-for-distance-learning-sws>

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**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**

*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 “*One Tablet, One Student Act*”.

**SECTION 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 in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**SECTION 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 as students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) 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.

**SECTION 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.

**SECTION 5. *Appropriations.*** — An amount of two hundred billion pesos (P200,000,000,000.00) 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.

**SECTION 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 two newspapers of general circulation.

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

**SECTION 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.

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

*Approved,*