

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4627



Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
TO PROVIDE FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA
RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT, TRAINING, AND IMPROVEMENT

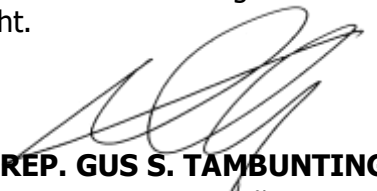
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure is proposed in recognition of the constitutional mandate of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels. Consistent with this mandate, the State must take appropriate steps to make quality education accessible to all.

This measure seeks to establish library media programs for public elementary and secondary schools which shall award grants for the acquisition of school library media resources for the use of students, library media specialists, and teachers. This measure likewise provides for the conduct of instructional innovation programs through partnerships between library media specialists and educators to develop units of instruction that will enable elementary and secondary school students to use a variety of information resources and expand student's information-gathering abilities and cognitive skills of selection, analysis, evaluation, and application.

This proposal would not only improve students' access to library resources but would also better equip both students and educators, especially from rural areas, to better adapt to digital advancements in learning delivery.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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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 "Public School Library Media Services Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is a policy of the State to 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.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the term:

- A. *"Director"* means the Director of the Division of Public School Library Media Services established under this Act;
- B. *"Local Educational Agency"* refers to a public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a State for either administrative control or direction of, or to perform a service function for a public elementary or secondary school in a province, city, or municipality;
- C. *"National Educational Agency"* refers to the officer or agency primarily responsible for the national supervision of public elementary and secondary schools;
- D. *"Secretary"* refers to the Secretary of Education;
- E. *"Division of Public-School Library Media Services"* refers to the Division established for this Act under the Department of Education;

SEC. 4. Establishment and Functions of the Division of Public School Library Media Services.

- A. Division. – There is established within the Department of Education, a Division of Public School Library Media Services, to be administered by a Director of such Division.
- B. Functions. – The Division of Public School Library Media Services shall:

1. Provide information and leadership to elementary and secondary, library media specialists, teachers, and school administrators to encourage the improvement of educational programs, train library personnel, use advanced technology, and develop library resources, including resources that will encourage students to acquire skills in other languages; and
2. Monitor and administer the grant programs for elementary and secondary school library media center resource development; elementary and secondary school library media specialist and teacher partnership grants for innovative education; and grants for uses of technology in the classroom that are linked to the library media center.

SEC. 5. Public School Library Media Program. –

- A. Establishment of the Public School Library Media Resource Development Program. – The Director shall award grants from all allocations to provinces for the acquisition of school library media resources for the use of students, library media specialists, and teachers in public elementary and secondary schools.
- B. Allocation to Provinces. – From the amount appropriated in each fiscal year, the Director shall allocate to each province having an approved plan an amount which bears the same relationships to such funds as the amount such province received for educational purposes.
- C. Provincial Plans. – For a province to receive an allocation of funds under paragraph (B) for any fiscal year such province shall have in effect for such fiscal year a provincial plan. Such plan shall—
 1. Designate the national educational agency as the agency responsible for the administration and supervision of the program described in this section; and
 2. Set forth a program under which funds paid to the province from its allocation under paragraph (B) will be expended solely for-
 - a. Acquisition of school library media resources, including foreign language resources, for the use of students, school library media specialists, and teachers in elementary and secondary schools; and
 - b. Administration of the provincial plan, including development and revision of standards relating to school library media resources, except that the amount used for administration of the provincial plan in any fiscal year shall not exceed five per centum (5%) of the amount allocated to the such province under paragraph (B), for the such fiscal year; and
 - c. Set forth criteria to be used in allotting funds for school library media resources among the local educational agencies or the province, which allotment shall take into consideration the relative needs of the students, school media specialists and teachers to be served.
- D. Distribution of Allocation to Local Educational Agencies. –
 1. Distribution Rule. – From the funds allocated to a province under paragraph (B) in each fiscal year, such province shall distribute not less than ninety-five per centum (95%) of such funds in such fiscal year to local educational agencies within such province according to the relative enrollment of students in public elementary and

secondary schools within the school districts of such province, adjusted to provide higher per-pupil allotments to local educational agencies that have the greatest number or percentages of students whose education imposes a higher than average cost per child, such as those students –

- a. Living in areas with high concentrations of low-income families;
 - b. From low-income families; and
 - c. Living in sparsely populated areas.
2. Calculation of Enrollment. – The calculation of relative enrollments under subparagraph (1) shall be made based on the total number of students enrolled in public schools in the province.

SEC. 6. Establishment of the School Library Media Specialist and Teacher Partnerships for Instructional Innovation Program. – The Director shall award grants to projects that –

- A. Encourage collaboration between public elementary and secondary school library media specialists and teachers to develop units of instruction that enable elementary and secondary school students to use a variety of information resources; and
- B. Expand students' information-gathering abilities and cognitive skills of selection, analysis, evaluation, and application.

SEC. 7. Establishment of the Use of Technology in the Classroom Program. –

- A. In General. – The Director shall award grants to encourage elementary and secondary school library media specialists and teacher programs assigned to –
 1. Expand the use of computers and computer networks in the curriculum; and
 2. Enable elementary and secondary school library media centers to access information from computerized databases.
- B. Operative Agreements. – The Director may enter into cooperative agreements with appropriate non-profit agencies and organizations in carrying out this Section.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Secretary shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to assure the smooth and efficient implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. Construction. – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to interfere with State and local initiative and responsibility in the conduct and support of school library media services, the administration of school library media centers, or the selection of personnel or library books and materials.

SEC. 10. Supplementation. – Funds provided under this Act shall be used to supplement and not supplant other national or local funds available to carry out the activities and services assisted under this Act.

SEC. 11. Appropriations. – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sum as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the

sum necessary for the continuous operation of the program shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Education.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the validity or constitutionality of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 13. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,