

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7522



Introduced by REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The paradigm of the nation's educational system has changed significantly since earlier times. The innovative learning modes developed by schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic serve as a stark reminder of the importance of technology in education today. The pandemic irreversibly changed the educational landscape, showing how technology can provide greater connectivity and accessibility.

Information and communication technology (ICT) is now viewed as a significant tool that contributes to the economic success of any nation as the digital era advances. It is clear that the Philippines is falling behind other countries when it comes to using ICTs. The creation of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) aims to provide every Filipino access to vital ICT infostructure and services and ensure sustainable growth of Philippine ICT-enabled industries resulting in the creation of more jobs. However, there is still an imperative need to train our youth in the utilization of ICT in primary and secondary public schools.

In that regard, this bill seeks to strengthen the utilization of ICT in all public elementary schools and high schools. This measure aims to provide public schools with computer facilities including a stable wireless network and equipment necessary for easy access to information, train educators to supplement traditional classroom learning with ICT, replace outdated textbooks with up-to-date electronic books, and have an online shared curriculum among both public elementary schools and high schools to ensure that students even in rural areas will be given the same quality of education.

In light of the crucial role that ICT plays in nation-building, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emilio L. Yulo', written in a cursive style.

REP. EMILIO BERNARDINO L. YULO

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE UTILIZATION OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "ICT in Education Act
of 2022".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy and Objectives.* It shall be the policy of the State to
provide quality education that is accessible to all citizens. Furthermore, the State shall
also establish and maintain an education system that is relevant to the needs of society.

This Act shall attain the following objectives:

- A. Provide public elementary schools and high schools with computer facilities including a stable wireless network and equipment necessary for easy access to information;
- B. Train educators to supplement traditional classroom learning with Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
- C. Replace out-dated textbooks with up-to-date electronic books; and
- D. Have an online shared curriculum among public elementary schools and high schools to ensure that students even in rural areas will be given the same quality of education.

SEC. 3. *ICT in Public Primary and Secondary Schools.* The Department of Education (DepEd) shall use appropriate and effective ICT in public elementary schools and high schools to broaden access to basic education, improve the quality of learning, enhance the quality of teaching, and strengthen educational planning and management.

SEC. 4. *Physical and Technological Infrastructure.* Within a period of six (6) years, all public elementary schools and high schools shall establish at least one (1) Computer Center with a stable internet connection that will ensure internet access to students. The schools shall avail of the services of existing commercial internet providers and shall establish and maintain a computer facility system which should have, at the minimum, the following equipment:

- A. Desktop Personal Computer (PC);
- B. Wireless Broadband Router;
- C. Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS);
- D. Computer Printer; and
- E. Multimedia Projector

The number of computer units for the Computer Center of each public elementary school and high school will be based on the standards and guidelines provided for by the DepEd in consultation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and with each respective public elementary schools and high schools.

SEC. 5. *Training for Educators and Maintenance of ICT.* The Regional Offices of the DepEd and the DICT shall carry out training for educators in public elementary schools and high schools to integrate ICT in classroom learning, to instill in educators the professional and educational benefits of investment in ICT, and to allow educators to have mastery of sourcing appropriate resources for school education.

The aforementioned agencies shall monitor the use and upkeep of ICT introduced in public elementary schools and high schools.

SEC. 6. *Utilization of ICT in Classroom Learning.* Educators in public elementary schools and high schools shall make full use of ICT as presentation tools to complement traditional teaching methods. Presentation tools may include, but shall not be limited to, multimedia projectors, television and guided internet surfing where the educator and the students will be able to view internet sites simultaneously.

SEC. 7. *Computerization of Administrative Systems.* The DepEd with the technical assistance of the DICT shall develop an ICT-based administrative system that will enhance organizational communication; facilitate the gathering, analysis, dissemination, and maintenance of educational statistics, and streamline office procedures.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be included in the regular appropriations of the Department of Education and the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The DepEd and the DICT shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* In the event that any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

Approved,