Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

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HOUSE BILL NO. **9862**

Introduced by Representative Lordan G. Suan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to integrate a foundational computer programming curriculum for grade schools and junior high schools.

Section 13 of Article II and Paragraph 2, Section 3 of Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides:

"*The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.*"

> *"They shall inculcate patriotism and nationalism, foster love of humanity, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, teach the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop moral character and personal discipline, encourage critical and creative thinking, broaden scientific and technological knowledge, and promote vocational efficiency."*

The digital age has transformed the way we live, communicate, and work. In recognition of the profound impact of technology on society and the economy, it is imperative that education systems adapt to prepare the younger generations for the demands of the future. This bill seeks to address this need by embedding computer programming into the educational curriculum of grade schools and junior high schools across the Philippines.

The rationale behind this legislative initiative is grounded in the policy of the State to provide quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all Filipinos. In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, computer programming has become an essential skill, much like reading and writing. Integrating a foundational computer programming curriculum at an early stage of education will not only enhance students' digital literacy but also foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

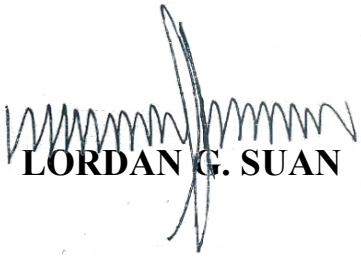
The proposed curriculum will introduce students to the basics of computer programming, including digital literacy, computer applications, hardware fundamentals, and an introduction to Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and programming languages such as HTML and CSS. Through interactive teaching methodologies, practical exercises, and collaborative projects, students will be engaged in learning that is both educational and enjoyable, thereby nurturing a generation of digitally savvy individuals.

Furthermore, the bill emphasizes the importance of equipping teachers with the necessary skills and resources to deliver this new curriculum effectively. It also calls for the collaboration with ICT experts and institutions to ensure that the curriculum remains up-to-date with industry standards and technological advancements.

Additionally, the bill focuses on providing adequate infrastructure and resources in schools, such as computer laboratories and internet access. Monitoring and evaluation systems will also be put in place to measure the effectiveness of the program and ensure continuous improvement.

This bill represents a significant step towards modernizing the Philippine education system. By preparing students with the skills needed to navigate and succeed in a digital economy, the Philippines will become a nation of proactive learners and innovative thinkers ready to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

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



LORDAN G. SUAN

Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. **9862**

Introduced by Representative Lordan G. Suan

AN ACT
INTEGRATING A FOUNDATIONAL COMPUTER PROGRAMMING CURRICULUM FOR GRADE SCHOOLS AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 *"Basic Computer Programming Education Act."*

SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to promote the right of every Filipino to quality education and lay the foundation for lifelong learning, including the need to equip students with the foundational knowledge and skills in computer programming to prepare them for more specialized and advanced courses in the senior high school years. Towards these ends, the State shall instill basic computer programming in the youth by integrating basic computer programming education into the basic education system.

SEC. 3. ***Basic Computer Programming***. – Basic computer programming is hereby integrated into the grade school and junior high school curriculum. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall, in consultation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), formulate the basic computer programming education curriculum that is preparatory for the specialized subjects provided in grades 11 and 12.

The basic computer programming curriculum shall be designed to be foundational and less complex than the specialized subjects offered in senior high school under the Technical-Vocational-Livelihood Track of the K to 12 program, and shall include digital literacy, computer applications, computer hardware fundamentals and introduction to Information and Communication Technology (ICT), HTML/CSS, programming logic and multimedia.

SEC. 4. ***Methodology and Materials***. – The DepEd shall, in coordination with the DICT and other ICT institutions, provide educational materials that are age-appropriate and designed to equip students with the skills and competencies in basic computer programming.

In addition to traditional teaching methods, teachers shall utilize interactive learning method and focus on practical exercises, collaborative projects, and creative exploration within the scope of computer programming.

SEC. 5. ***Collaboration and Training***. – The DepEd shall, in coordination with the DICT and other ICT institutions, conduct training programs for teachers of basic computer programming to ensure that they are equipped with

adequate knowledge and skills in teaching basic computer programming education.

Likewise, the DepEd shall collaborate with relevant ICT institutions, educational organizations, and experts in the field of computer programming to develop and enhance the basic computer programming curriculum, ensure that the curriculum is on par with the current industry standards and explore all opportunities for its enhancement through resources, expertise, and technology.

SEC. 6. ***Facilities and Equipment.*** **–** The DepEd shall provide the necessary ICT infrastructure, such as computer laboratories, age-appropriate educational software, and learning management systems to facilitate both in-person and potential remote learning activities, for all public schools.

Likewise, the DepEd shall ensure that private elementary and junior high schools are equipped with the necessary ICT infrastructure to teach the computer programming curriculum.

SEC. 7. ***Monitoring and Evaluation***. – The DepEd shall, in coordination with the National Economic and Development Authority, establish a system of monitoring and evaluation to measure the program's effectiveness, including regular assessments of students' basic computer programming skills.

SEC. 8. ***Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriation of the DepEd. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued

implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall, in coordination with the Secretaries of Information and Communications Technology and National Economic and Development Authority, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,