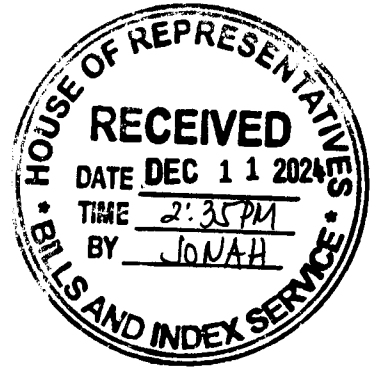




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **11194**

Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE VIRTUAL LIBRARY, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As the world transitions to the digital age, the country’s educational system evolves to ensure that Filipinos, especially students, are well-equipped to thrive in this modern world. There are more than 20.5 million students enrolled in public schools for School Year 2024-2025. However, there are still students who lack access to textbooks and learning materials. In addition, some of these schools also lack access to modern educational technology. This inhibits the students’ ability to learn effectively and achieve optimal learning outcomes.

Through this measure, textbooks and other reference materials will be digitized, creating an accessible virtual library and allowing students to have easier access to learning materials. In addition, this measure also ensures that public schools will have the necessary equipment to access the virtual library. By equipping public schools with computers and ensuring that there is internet connectivity, this measure will bridge the educational resource gap in the Philippine setting.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a cursive 'D' and a final flourish.

CRISPIN DIEGO "PING" D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Virtual Library
2 Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to empower citizens with
4 knowledge, skills, competencies, and resources required to engage in an increasingly digital
5 world effectively. To this end, the State shall provide its citizens access to digitized copies of
6 textbooks necessary for quality education in order to build adaptability in information and
7 communications technology and enhance their educational experience.

8 **SEC. 3. Philippine Virtual Library.** – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the
9 National Library of the Philippines (NLP) shall create a digitized copy of all textbooks and
10 reference books it deems necessary for the enhancement of knowledge of the public. These
11 shall be compiled in the Philippine Virtual Library, which shall be jointly managed by the
12 DepEd, NLP, and the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT).

SEC. 4. Access to Digitized Copies of Books. – The DepEd and NLP shall ensure access to the digitized copies of books by providing computers or appropriate wherewithal to all public schools nationwide. The DICT shall provide fast and reliable internet access to each public school to ensure access to digitized copies of books.

SEC. 5. Recycling of Computers. – National government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, and other government financial institutions which shall procure new computers shall endorse their old units to the DICT to check if the computers can still be used for the intent of this Act. All computer units that are still usable shall be then donated to the DepEd for deployment to public schools nationwide.

SEC. 6. Additional Online Educational Materials. – The DepEd and NLP shall be allowed to add other online materials that they deem necessary for the expansion of the learning opportunities of students.

SEC. 7. Custody Over Digitized Copies of Books. – The DepEd and the NLP shall have joint custody over the digitized copies of books. The DICT shall likewise ensure the technological management of the digital repository to ensure the integrity of the system.

SEC. 8. Private Sector Participation. – The DepEd and NLP are hereby mandated to formulate a program that shall encourage the participation of private corporations and civil society organizations in the implementation of this Act. The program shall include proposals to encourage their participation in the digitization of books and the provision of computers, among others.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. – The initial amount of Five Hundred Million (PHP 500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the immediate implementation of this Act. The amount necessary for the continuous and effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the DepEd, NLP, and the DICT shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. – If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,