



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11278



Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL
LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE
PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

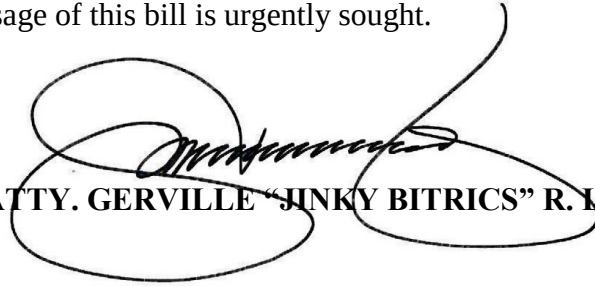
Republic Act No. 7743 was enacted with the goal of increasing the literacy rate of Filipinos by establishing libraries in congressional districts, cities, municipalities, and barangays. Libraries serve as essential community hubs for learning and professional development, providing access to a wealth of knowledge. As learning institutions shift toward incorporating digital materials, public libraries must also adapt to meet the evolving needs of their communities by embracing new technologies.

To address this, the proposed measure aims to upgrade and strengthen the public library system, ensuring that libraries remain relevant and accessible in the digital age. By offering services like free Wi-Fi access, affordable rental of ICT equipment (such as smartphones, tablets, laptops, desktops, and mobile hotspots), and online learning opportunities, this measure seeks to improve public access to information and enhance personal and professional development for all members of the community.

Equipping libraries with the latest technology is crucial to bridging the digital divide and supporting lifelong learning. This initiative ensures that public libraries remain effective

knowledge hubs, empowering individuals with the tools and resources necessary for academic, career, and personal growth in an increasingly digital world.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized initial 'G' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11278

Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL
LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE
PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7743 Is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading Centers. - National Library Establishment in coordination of Public with Libraries the and Department Interior and Local Government (DILG shall undertake the establishment of additional public libraries to serve all) congressional districts, cities and municipalities in the Philippines and reading centers in every barangay except in cities or municipalities where there are existing public libraries or in barangays where there are existing reading centers: *Provided*, That the [~~establishment of such libraries and reading centers shall be based on the development program of the National Library~~] **PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR ESTABLISHING SUCH PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING CENTERS**

SHALL BE CONTINUOUSLY UPDATED TO INCLUDE THE LATEST COMPUTER AND ELECTRONIC LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY, in coordination with the development council of each city or municipality and in the case of the barangay reading centers, in coordination with the respective barangay councils: Provided, further, That where these public libraries and reading centers already exist, the National Library shall continue to upgrade the facilities thereof **WITH COMPLETE STANDARD SETS OF BOOKS, E-BOOKS, ONLINE RESEARCH RESOURCES, SUBSCRIPTIONS TO ONLINE ACADEMIC JOURNALS, DATABASES AND PERIODICALS, AND OTHER MATERIALS AS PROVIDED UNDER SEC. 3 OF THIS ACT AS WELL AS THE LATEST ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR STORING, CATALOGING, AND FILING OF DATA AND MATERIALS: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT BY THE YEAR 2022, ALL THE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES WILL BE PROVIDED WITH AN ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM."**

Sec. 2. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 6. Functions of the Public Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers. - The public libraries and barangay reading centers shall have the following functions:

- (a) to make available to the members of the community reading materials of wide array, **CONTENT AND FORMAT, WHETHER PHYSICAL OR DIGITAL**, including **BUT NOT LIMITED TO** reading materials prescribed by the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports and national newspapers of general circulation and others;
- (b) to be used as a venue for audio-visual presentations [in the community] and other kinds of exhibitions, **SEMINARS, TRAINING MODULES, WEBINARS**, and activities **WITH OBJECTIVES THAT INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:**
 - 1. INCREASING THE FUNCTIONAL LITERACY RATE;**
 - 2. ENCOURAGING A CULTURE OF READING, SELF-STUDY AND LIFELONG LEARNING;**
 - 3. PRESERVING THE LOCAL HERITAGE AND HISTORY; AND,**
 - 4. PROMOTING NATIONALISM, SOCIO-CIVIC CONSCIOUSNESS, AND HARMONY THROUGHOUT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY;**

- (c) **TO SERVE AS ACCESS POINTS FOR FREE FAST INTERNET CONNECTIVITY, IN LINE WITH THE POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT);**
- (d) **TO PROVIDE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS), AND SENIOR CITIZENS, AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE RENTAL SERVICES FOR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) AND EQUIPMENT SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO SMARTPHONES, TABLETS, LAPTOPS, DESKTOP COMPUTERS, AND MOBILE WIFI HOTSPOTS;**

(e) to offer such other related services in the furtherance of this Act. Sec. 3.
Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7743 Is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 7. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law ~~[and for the next five (5) years: thereafter this local government units shall undertake the maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while the National Library shall continue provide reading materials and supplies to the said libraries and reading centers]~~. **IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM TO BE IMPLEMENTED, THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SHALL BE INCREASED IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P500,000,000.00) PER YEAR UNTIL ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE PROVIDED AND HAVE ACCESS TO FULL ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FACILITIES."**

Sec. 4. *Role of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).* – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall assist in the provision of cutting-edge computer and electronic library technology, as well as a fast and reliable Internet connection, through the Department's flagship programs, including but not limited to the Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development (Tech4ED) Project.

Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,