

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 467



Introduced by **Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislative measure aims to address the persistent delays in the delivery of textbooks and other learning materials in the country, especially in far-flung provinces or regions, by decentralizing the Textbook Procurement Program of the Department of Education (DepEd). The bill proposes to establish the Division Textbook Procurement Services Units (DTPSUs) in every provincial and city division office, including the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). By decentralizing such, the government shall be able to streamline the procurement process and bring it closer to schools that need the materials the most. The measure shall also repeal Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8047, otherwise known as the Book Publishing Industry Development Act which shall ensure that local DepEd offices will have greater autonomy in the acquisition and distribution of textbooks. In this way, the State shall be able to reduce bottlenecks at the national level.

According to the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the lack of textbooks and other learning materials has been a longstanding issue in the country that hampers the students' learning process as they do not possess the necessary materials to understand the concepts being taught in their respective classes. Reports from teachers and other school administrators, and even parents, state that learners are often forced to share outdated or insufficient copies of textbooks, which is a far cry from DepEd's goal of a one-is-to-one textbook to student ratio. The Commission on Audit's (COA) report from recent years also revealed that there are significant backlogs in the textbook procurement program of the DepEd as some materials were found to arrive years after their intended use. The centralized procurement system was found to have a particularly slow approval, bidding and distribution due to bureaucratic red tape and logistical challenges. The MATATAG curriculum reforms, as introduced by the DepEd, are envisioned to improve learning outcomes. However, its implementation has been hindered by the late delivery of textbooks. According to the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), Grades 4 and 7 only have 35 out of 90 textbook titles have been fully delivered as of January 2025, which is halfway of the School Year (SY) 2024-2025. These delays further exacerbate the urgent need for a more responsive and decentralized textbook procurement system or process.

With that being said, the decentralization of the textbook procurement program will alleviate the plight of learners, teachers and even parents in several meaningful ways. Not only will it shorten the procurement and delivery of textbooks by allowing local DepEd offices to

directly acquire learning materials, but it will also empower local education officials with greater decision-making authority and enable them to select or tailor-fit textbook and learning materials aligned with the needs of their students.

This measure shall also promote or enhance accountability and transparency as monitoring textbook distribution at the division level will become much more manageable compared to a national procurement system. The bill shall also help our teachers who often shoulder the financial burden in the provision of learning materials when textbooks aren't readily available for instruction. Our teachers will be relieved of this and focus entirely on quality instruction.

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


JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 467

Introduced by **Rep. Jaime R. Fresnedi**

AN ACT
DECENTRALIZING THE TEXTBOOK PROCUREMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) BY CREATING A DIVISION TEXTBOOK PROCUREMENT SERVICES UNIT (DTPSU) IN ALL PROVINCIAL AND CITY DIVISION OFFICES INCLUDING THOSE IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8047, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT

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

SECTION 1. *Decentralization of the Textbook Procurement Program.* - The Textbook Procurement Program of the Department of Education (DepEd) shall be decentralized by establishing the Division Textbook Procurement Services Unit (DTPSU) in every provincial and city division office of the department including those in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Sec. 2. *Pre-Procurement Procedures.* - The Bureau of Curriculum Development (BCD), in coordination with the Bureau of Learning Resources (BLR), the National Book Development Board (NBDB) and the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat (IMCS), shall perform the following:

- a) Prepare the Most Essential Learning Competencies (MELCs) and writing briefs;
- b) Develop national curriculum standards for basic education;

- c) Disseminate the MELCs and corresponding instructional material guidelines to all provincial and city division offices and accredited publishers.

The BLR shall lead the quality assurance process of all textbook submissions to ensure alignment with curriculum standards. A shortlist of quality-assured titles shall be developed at the central level.

The Schools Division Offices shall:

- a) Select titles from the quality-assured list that best fit the needs of schools within their jurisdiction;
- b) Disseminate the approved list to schools to allow end-user selection;
- c) Facilitate procurement and payment of selected textbooks and instructional materials;
- d) Encourage selection of validated supplementary books that support differentiated instruction, depending on local learning needs and context.

Training on textbook and supplementary material evaluation shall be conducted for all SDOs and schools. The use of the Special Education Fund (SEF) may be explored and clarified to support the procurement of supplemental resources.

Sec. 3. The Procurement Procedure. - The DTPSUs shall:

- a) Collect Requisition and Issue Slips (RIS) from schools;
- b) Consolidate and prioritize requested titles;
- c) Prepare and process purchase orders based on available funds; and
- d) Coordinate the delivery and allocation of books to schools.

Sec. 4. Decentralization of Textbook Printing. – Textbook printing may be conducted on a regional, provincial or congressional district basis when economically viable to support local industry and expedite delivery.

Sec. 5. Multiple Adoption. - The DepEd shall ensure that the policy of multiple adoption of textbooks be implemented to encourage the free flow of information and deregulation of book publishing.

Sec. 6. Composition of the DTPSU. - The DTPSU shall be headed by the Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) or his or her authorized representative with the following as members:

- a) Supply Officer;
- b) Area Supervisor Concerned;
- c) Fiscal or Finance Chief; and
- d) Representative District Supervisor or Head of the largest school in the division.

Sec. 7. Function of the Office of the Secretary of the DepEd. - The Office of the Secretary of the DepEd shall monitor the operation of the DTPSUs with respect to the quality of services of participating private publishers as well as utilization of funds allocated to the respective DTPSUs.

Sec. 8. Monitoring. - The Office of the Secretary of the Deped shall monitor all DTPSU operations, including the quality of publisher services and proper fund utilization. Coordination with the BLR shall ensure ongoing quality control.

Sec. 9. Appropriations. - The Secretary of Education and the Regional Secretary of Education of the ARMM shall immediately include in their respective agency's programs the establishment and operation of the DTPSUs, the initial funding of which shall be charged against their current year's appropriations and thereafter in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Likewise, the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of the ARMM shall include in their respective agency's Annual Budget Appropriations the amount for the procurement of textbooks and other instructional materials based on the annual textbook procurement program/s submitted by each division.

Sec. 10. Penal Clause. - Any person who willfully violates or cause the violation of any provision of this Act shall, upon conviction, be penalized with a fine of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than three months but not more than one year or both depending upon the discretion of the court.

Sec. 11. Repealing Clause. - Section 10 of R.A. No. 8047, otherwise known as the Book Publishing Industry Development Act, is hereby repealed. All other laws, decrees, rules, regulatory and other administrative issuances or provisions thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 12. Effectivity. - Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,