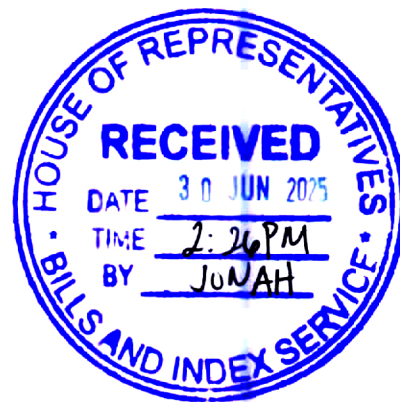


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 570



Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR ONE (1) SERVICE LAPTOP FOR EVERY PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHER IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill proposes to provide one (1) service laptop for every public school teacher to alleviate their financial burdens due to meager salaries and insufficient teaching supplies allowance. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, much of teachers' duties and tasks already rely on technology, such as when they submit their reports, or make lesson plans, modules, exams, instructional materials, and other teaching or non-teaching-related tasks. Gone are the days that teachers will rely on handwritten outputs.

Now that the COVID-19 pandemic happened, teachers were forced to shell out more from their meager salaries just to render education services through blended or online learning by securing laptops, gadgets, load, internet connection or subscription, and other materials. The COVID-19 pandemic showed to us how pathetic our education system is, teachers were not equipped with proper tools to educate our students effectively and properly through blended modes or online. As most teachers, especially those in rural areas, do not have their own laptops or even internet connectivity. They usually do not qualify under the Department of Education's computerization program, whether for the provision of desktops or laptops. More often than not, they will rely on laptops procured by the school or by the local government unit.


If government has not previously seen fit to sufficiently provide teachers the

tools that are necessary for their duties and tasks, now is the suitable time. If policemen are provided with their service firearms, and office workers in most government agencies are provided with office supplies and computers, then there is no reason that public school teachers are not provided with service laptops.

For the foregoing reasons, urgent approval of this bill is sought.



Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-List



Rep. RENEE LOUISE M. CO
KABATAAN Party-List

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of our public school teachers in nation building and as such, they are the foundation of the Filipino youth through the education services they provide.

It is also in consonance with the government's constitutional duty to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels. The State shall therefore take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.

The State shall ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment.

SEC. 2. *Definition.* – As used in this Act, the term “teacher” shall mean all persons engaged in classroom teaching, in any level of instruction, on full-time basis, including guidance counselors, school librarians, and all other persons performing supervisory and/or administrative functions in all schools under the Department of Education, but shall not include school nurses, school physicians, school dentists, and other school employees.

SEC. 3. *Provision of Service Laptops to Public School Teachers.* -- Every public school teacher under the Department of Education (DepEd) shall receive one (1) service laptop each.

For this purpose, the DepEd and Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall determine the total number of public school teachers and procure one (1) service laptop for each public school teacher. The distribution of the laptops will be done in two tranches, thus:

1. For School Year 2023-2024, the laptops shall be distributed to all classroom teachers, namely, Teacher I to Master Teacher IV, Special Education Teacher I to Special Education Teacher III, Special Science Teacher I to Special Science Teacher V, and other teaching-related positions;
2. For School Year 2024-2025, the laptops shall be distributed to administrative or supervisory positions such as Principal I to Principal IV, Assistant School Principal I to III, Special School Principal, Vocational School Administrator I and Vocational School Administrator III, and Head Teacher I to VI; and
3. The DepEd shall likewise ensure that each teacher newly-hired upon effectivity of this Act is issued a service laptop.

The DepEd, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications and Technology (DICT), shall consider and formulate the technical qualifications and specifications needed for the procurement of service laptops to ensure effective performance of duty of our public school teachers. Further, the DICT shall ensure the efficacy of said laptops through regular repair and maintenance of the same.

SEC. 3. *Monitoring.* -- The DepEd, in strict coordination with its Divisions as well as the unions and organizations of public school teachers, shall monitor the implementation of this Act, including but not limited to the budgetary requirements. It shall submit the results of such monitoring annually to the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, the House Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and the Department of Budget and Management.

SEC. 4. *Strict Implementation of the Procurement Process.* -- The procurement of the service laptops shall comply with the strict implementation of Republic Act 9184 or the *Government Procurement Reform Act*, thus:

1. The DepEd shall first go through Competitive Bidding under Article IV thereof, whether the Single-Stage and Two-Stage Public Bidding;
2. After exhaustion of the measures under Competitive Bidding, the DepEd shall then resort to either of two alternative modes of procurement, namely, Repeat Order under Section 51 or Negotiated Procurement under Section 53 (a); and

3. In all cases, the DepEd shall incorporate all measures and actions it has undertaken, including compliance with the terms and conditions prior to resorting to Repeat Order or Negotiated Procurement, in its report under the preceding Section.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the faithful and effective implementation of the provisions of this Act within thirty (30) days from the date of its effectivity.

Failure to comply with the mandate of this Section will render the responsible officials liable under relevant laws and administrative rules.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* – Upon effectivity of this Act, the amounts necessary for its implementation shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, the funds shall be provided in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any provision of laws, orders, agreements, rules, or regulations contrary to and inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication either in the *Official Gazette*, or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,