



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



**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2634**

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**Introduced by Representative WALFREDO "ARMAN" R. DIMAGUILA, JR.**

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**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING THE FREE DIGITAL PROVISION OF TEXTBOOKS USED IN**  
**BASIC EDUCATION, ENCOURAGING OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES,**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Access to quality education is a right guaranteed by our Constitution, and at its core is the simple truth that every child should have the tools they need to learn. Yet for far too many Filipino learners, especially in public schools, textbooks remain out of reach, whether because they are too expensive, outdated, or simply unavailable.

In today's world, where digital access is increasingly woven into how we learn and communicate, we must act with urgency and compassion to close this gap. This bill seeks to do just that by requiring that all textbooks approved for use in basic education by the Department of Education (DepEd) be made available in **digital format, free of charge.**

Under this measure, authors and publishers will be required to submit digital copies of approved textbooks to DepEd, which will then make them accessible to learners and teachers through official platforms or other secure, authorized channels. This policy reflects our belief that **education must be inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the realities of the 21st century.**

The bill also supports the development and use of **Open Educational Resources (OER)**, which are teaching and learning materials that are either in the public domain or freely available under open licenses. These resources enable no-cost

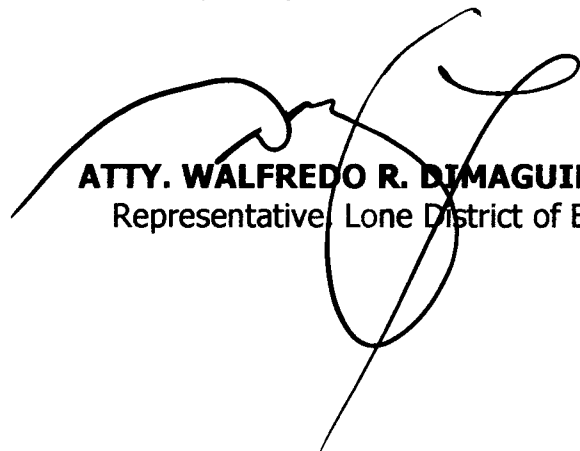
access, adaptation, and sharing, empowering both educators and learners to be more creative, flexible, and responsive in the learning process.

By mandating free access to digital textbooks and encouraging the growth of OER, this measure hopes to: a) **ease the financial burden** on students and families; b) **expand access to current and relevant learning materials**; c) **support flexible and alternative learning modes**, particularly in times of disruption; and d) **bridge and not widen the digital divide** in education.

We also recognize the parallel initiative in the Senate, led by **Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV**, who has consistently championed policies that promote equity and innovation in education. This shared commitment across both Houses affirms the importance and urgency of this reform.

At the heart of this proposal is a simple but powerful goal: to make sure that no child falls behind just because they didn't have the right book in their hands. In an age where digital tools can level the playing field, we must ensure that our policies are not only forward-looking but also deeply grounded in compassion and fairness.

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



**ATTY. WALFREDO R. DIMAGUILA, JR.**  
Representative, Lone District of Biñan



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2 **IN BASIC EDUCATION, ENCOURAGING OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES,**  
3 **AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

6 **Section 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "E-Textbook Para Sa Lahat  
7 Act."

8 **Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to promote accessible,  
9 inclusive, and equitable education for all. Recognizing the transformative potential of  
10 digital learning tools, the State shall ensure that essential educational resources,  
11 including textbooks, are accessible in both print and digital formats at no cost to  
12 learners. The State shall also encourage the creation, adaptation, and use of open  
13 educational resources (OER) to foster collaboration, innovation, and equity in  
14 education.

15 **Sec. 3. *Coverage.*** - This Act shall apply to all textbooks and instructional materials  
16 used in basic education, whether for public or private schools, and approved or

17 recognized by the Department of Education (DepEd) pursuant to existing laws,  
18 policies, and regulations.

19 **Sec. 4. *Mandatory Free Digital Format and Condition for DepEd Approval.*** -

20 All authors, publishers, or copyright holders of textbooks and instructional materials  
21 intended for use in basic education and submitted for DepEd approval or procurement  
22 shall:

- 23 a) Provide an electronic or digital version of the material in a format accessible on  
24 standard digital devices (PDF or EPUB);
- 25 b) Make such digital versions available to the DepEd free of charge; and
- 26 c) Authorize the DepEd to distribute or make accessible such digital copies, at no  
27 cost, to learners, teachers, and schools via DepEd-authorized platforms.

28 *Provided,* That compliance with the foregoing shall be a prerequisite for the approval,  
29 endorsement, procurement, or inclusion of such materials in the official list of  
30 textbooks and learning resources of the DepEd.

31 **Sec. 5. *Promotion of Open Educational Resources.*** - To further enhance access  
32 to quality education, the DepEd shall encourage the development, use, and adaptation  
33 of Open Educational Resources (OER), freely accessible, openly licensed educational  
34 materials that can be used, shared, adapted, and redistributed.

35 DepEd shall include in its policies incentives and support mechanisms for schools,  
36 educators, and authors that develop OER for use in the K to 12 curriculum.

37 **Sec. 6. *Non-Compliance.*** - Failure to comply with the requirements under this Act  
38 shall disqualify the textbook or learning material from consideration for DepEd  
39 approval, endorsement, or procurement. Additional sanctions may be imposed in  
40 accordance with the implementing rules and regulations.

41 **Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The DepEd shall issue the  
42 necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.  
43 Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to:

- 44 a) Technical standards for digital formats;
- 45 b) Guidelines for access and distribution;
- 46 c) Provisions to ensure the digital version is identical in content to the approved
- 47 print version;
- 48 d) Measures to ensure accessibility for learners with disabilities;
- 49 e) Data privacy and copyright safeguards.

50 **Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act is declared  
51 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall  
52 continue to be in full force and effect.

53 **Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules, and  
54 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

55 **Sec. 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
56 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*