



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 4193

Introduced by **Representative MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure proposes to amend Republic Act No. 7743, which is also known as “AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES”.

The bill is expected to benefit the Filipino people by modernizing the country’s public libraries and reading centers. The proposed amendments aim to equip these facilities with the latest electronic and computer library technology. By providing an electronically-operated library system in all cities and municipalities by 2027, the bill will significantly improve access to information and resources for the public. The annual budget increase for the National Library will ensure that these upgrades and new systems are properly funded and implemented.

Amendments cover two provisions, to wit:

Section 1 amends Section 2 of RA 7743. The amendment states that the establishment and upgrading of public libraries and reading centers by the National Library, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and local councils, shall be based on the latest computer and electronic library technology. It also specifies that existing facilities should be upgraded with complete standard sets of books, other materials, and the latest electronic library system using computers for data storage, cataloging, and filing. The bill further mandates that by the year 2027, all cities and municipalities in the Philippines will be provided with an electronically-operated library system.

Section 2 amends Section 7 of RA 7743, which deals with appropriations. To fund the new electronic library system, the bill proposes increasing the National Library’s budget by P5,000,000.00 per year. This increase will continue until all cities and municipalities in the Philippines have access to full electronic library facilities.

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



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4193

Introduced by **Representative MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR**

AN ACT

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”, 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:

*“Section 2. Establishment of Public Libraries and Reading Centers. - The National Library in coordination with the Department of the 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 **BASED ON 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 AND OTHER MATERIALS AS PROVIDED UNDER SEC. 3 OF THIS ACT AS WELL AS THE LATEST ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM USING COMPUTERS FOR STORING, CATALOGING, AND FILING OF DATA AND MATERIAL; PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT BY THE YEAR 2027, ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES BE PROVIDED ELECTRONICALLY-OPERATED LIBRARY SYSTEM.***

SEC 2. Sec. 7 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 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, the local government units shall~~

~~undertake the maintenance of public libraries and reading centers while the National Library shall continue to provide reading materials and supplies to the said libraries and reading centers.~~ TO FUND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY SYSTEM, THE NATIONAL LIBRARY'S BUDGET SHALL BE INCREASED BY FIVE MILLION (5,000,000) PESOS ANNUALLY. SUCH INCREASE SHALL CONTINUE EVERY YEAR UNTIL ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE PROVIDED WITH, AND HAVE FULL ACCESS TO, COMPLETE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FACILITIES.

SEC 3. *Repealing Clause* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SEC 4. *Effectivity Clause* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,