

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

TWENTIETH (20TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 4840

Introduced by Representative MARIA VANESSA C. AUMENTADO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries." – Rene Descartes (Philosopher, scientist and mathematician)

Reading remains the main way to learn new things and to test understanding. Although digital tools of learning are indispensable to modern living, still, libraries provide both tangible and intangible benefits to the people and continue to stay relevant in the society. Public libraries remain central to the community as it can connect even the most remote community to network of knowledge and information.

It is a declared policy of the state to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people; elevate the literacy level of every Filipino to the end that illiteracy is eradicated by the end of the century; and recognizing the vital role of knowledge and information in nation-building by establishing public libraries in every congressional district, city and municipality, and reading centers in every barangay throughout the Philippines.¹

Indeed, public libraries provide resources that many people could not otherwise afford – resources to live, learn, work and govern. They are instrumental to the development and high literacy rate of the Philippine society. Public libraries play a pivotal role in the facilitation of socioeconomic development of the people by enabling access to

¹ Republic Act 7743, Section 1

information, and also promote the social, political and personal well-being of the citizenry.

This bill seeks to establish a modern congressional library in the Second District of Bohol, to be situated in the Municipality of Ubay. As a modern public library, it shall not only lend out reading materials and serve as repository of cultural assets of the second district, it shall also function as venue for face-to-face seminars, webinars, cultural appreciation activities, public WiFi hotspots access and the likes. It also seeks to ensure the efficient and adequate delivery of library and allied services thereby improving the education and development of the people of the 2nd District of Bohol.

Also, the purpose of this measure is to ensure that the operational expenses of the congressional library are properly laid out in the annual appropriations, and that the officers and employees thereof are within the organizational structures of the National Library of the Philippines.

It is thus, that approval of this proposed measure is earnestly requested.



MARIA VANESSA C. AUMENTADO

Representative

Second (2nd) District, BOHOL

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

TWENTIETH (20th) Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4840

Introduced by **Representative MARIA VANESSA C. AUMENTADO**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE SECOND DISTRICT OF BOHOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF UBAY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE

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

SECTION 1. Second District of Bohol Congressional Library. – There shall be established in the Municipality of Ubay, Province of Bohol the Second District of Bohol Congressional Library, which shall be under the direct control and supervision of the National Library of the Philippines (NLP).

SECTION 2. Access to Digital Information. –The congressional library established by this act shall have at least twenty five (25) computer units with access to the internet, which shall be used exclusively for education and research purposes only. The used thereof shall be free of charge to the public.

SECTION 3. Additional Functions. – In addition to the functions of Public Libraries as stated in Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7743, the Second District of Bohol Congressional Library shall also have the following functions:

- a. To be used as venue for seminars, training modules, webinars, and other activities with objectives that include but not limited to:
 1. Increase the functional literacy rate
 2. Encourage a culture of reading, self-study and lifelong learning;
 3. Preserving local heritage and history; and

4. Promoting nationalism, socio-civic consciousness and harmony through the local community.

b. To be a repository for cultural and historical assets of the Second District of Bohol.

c. To serve as access point for free fast internet connectivity, in line with the policies, programs, and projects of the Department of Information and Communication (DICT).

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d. To provide members of the community, especially students, teachers, persons with disabilities (PWDs), senior citizens, and out-of-school youth affordable and reliable services such as, but not limited to, printing, scanning and photocopying.

SECTION 4. Appointment of Personnel. - The Director of the NLP shall appoint a Librarian III, Librarian I, Computer Operator II, Computer File Librarian I, Librarian Aide, Audio-Visual Equipment Operator II and Watchman I (Security Guard) and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act; provided, that, all appointments shall be in accordance with the Civil Service Act and its implementing rules and regulations; and provided further; that, their salaries and allowances shall be in accordance with the Salary Standardization Law and other applicable laws.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. - The sum of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated out of the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated for the maintenance and operation of the library for the current fiscal year. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the purpose of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NLP shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED,