



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4930



**Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez,
Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A.
Acidre**

AN ACT
PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DIGITAL TEXTBOOKS AND
LEARNING MATERIALS FOR STUDENTS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES
AND COLLEGES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
NATIONAL ACADEMIC CONTENT REPOSITORY AND FREE WI-FI
IN SUC CAMPUSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to quality education is a fundamental right of every Filipino learner. In today's digital era, education is no longer confined to classrooms and physical learning materials. The use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has transformed the way students acquire knowledge and how teachers deliver instruction.

Providing free Wi-Fi access for students is not merely about connecting to the internet; it is about bridging the gaps and addressing the challenges faced by Filipino learners. Yet despite these advancements, many students—particularly those in rural and marginalized areas—continue to be disadvantaged due to the lack of reliable internet connectivity.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored this stark digital divide, as thousands of students struggled to attend online classes and access learning resources because of weak or non-existent internet services.

This measure therefore supports the government's commitment to ensuring equal access to education by recognizing Wi-Fi as an essential component of digital development. Reliable internet must be regarded as a basic necessity, not a privilege, so that every learner is given the opportunity to access quality education.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



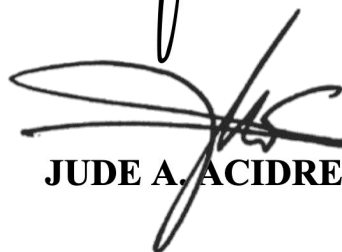
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Universal Access to Learning Resources Act”.

SEC. 2. *Objectives* – This Act aims to:

- a. Provide free and equitable access to academic learning resources for students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs);
- b. Establish a National Academic Content Repository (NACR) that hosts government-funded and openly licensed educational content;

- c. Ensure Free High-speed Wi-Fi access in all SUC campuses to facilitate digital learning and research;
- d. Support the development, digitization, and sharing of locally produced academic content.

SEC. 3. *National Academic Content Repository (NACR)* – There shall be created a National Academic Content Repository (NACR) to be managed by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). The NACR shall:

- A. Store and disseminate digital textbooks, lecture videos, syllabi, research papers, and open educational resources (OERs) across disciplines;
- B. Provide free online access to all SUC students and faculty nationwide;
- C. Ensure content is quality-assured, accessible, inclusive, and culturally relevant;
- D. Encourage faculty-generated content, with appropriate academic recognition and attribution.

SEC. 4. *Digital Content Development and Acquisition* – To populate the NACR, CHED shall:

- a. Acquire licenses for digital textbooks and resources used in SUC courses;
- b. Promote the creation of localized and open educational content through grants to SUCs and faculty members;
- c. Work with national and international publishers to secure affordable or open access arrangements.
- d. Establish content review panels to ensure academic quality and accuracy.

SEC. 5. *Free Wi-Fi Access in SUCs* – The DICT, in partnership with SUCs, shall implement campus-wide high-speed Wi-Fi access that is:

- a. Free of charge to all enrolled SUC students and faculty;
- b. Secure and monitored to protect user privacy and prevent misuse;
- c. Designed to support access to the NACR and other academic services.

Priority shall be given to rural and under-resourced campuses during initial implementation.

SEC. 6. *Responsibilities of SUCs* – Each SUC shall:

- a. Designate an Open Learning Resources Unit or officer to coordinate with CHED and DICT;
- b. Encourage faculty to contribute, adapt, and use digital content from the NACR;
- c. Support students in digital literacy and responsible use of online academic resources;
- d. Integrate NACR content into library services and course delivery.

SEC. 7. *Capacity Building and Incentives* – CHED shall offer:

- a. Training and workshops for faculty on creating digital materials and OERs;
- b. Recognition and incentives for academic content creators whose work is used nationally;
- c. Technical assistance to SUCs for Wi-Fi installation, server setup, and NACR access.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, CHED and DICT, in coordination with SUCs and other stakeholders, shall issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, executive orders or issuances or any part thereof, which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,