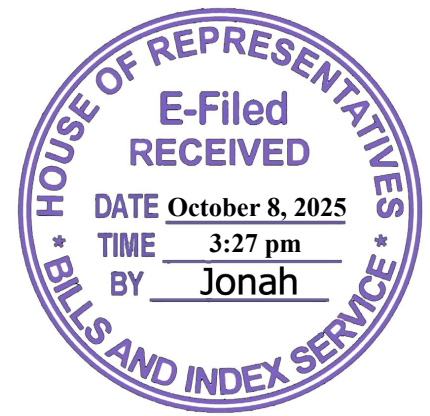


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 5324**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

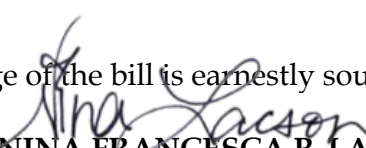
Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, “The State shall give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development”. Likewise, in Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution further provides that, “The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels, and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all students. From these provisions enshrined in the Constitution, the State recognizes the vital role of quality education in nation-building and must promote modern digital libraries and making it accessible and available in all public schools”.

Despite this mandate, the current state of literacy in the country remains in dire condition. The Philippines Statistics Authority has conducted the Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) in 2024, which aims to gather data as bases in determining the state of literacy in the country. Basic literacy rate is computed for individuals who are 5 years old and over, while functional literacy rate is computed for individuals 10 to 64 years old.

The 2024 FLEMMS results revealed that 90.0 percent or 9 out of 10 Filipinos aged 5 years and over had basic literacy. This translates to approximately 93.07 million individuals aged 5 years and over who can read, write, and compute out of the estimated 103.46 million individuals in the same age group. While the functional literacy rate in 2024 was recorded at 70.8 percent or about 7 out of 10 individuals aged 10 to 64 years were functionally literate. This translates to around 60.17 million individuals aged 10 to 64 years who can read, write, compute, and comprehend out of the estimated 85.00 million individuals in the same age group. This means that around 30% of individuals aged 10 to 64 are functionally illiterate.

This bill seeks to alleviate these conditions by establishing digital libraries in all public school across the country. The presence of digital libraries will create a positive learning environment for students and encourage competitive advancement in literacy among the youth.

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


MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party-list

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 5324

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE MA. NINA FRANCESCA P. LACSON**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF E-LIBRARIES IN ALL PUBLIC
SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "E-Library Act."

Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State shall ensure that the citizens are literate and are provided access to learning materials available and shared in various digital platforms. The State shall also provide its citizens the opportunity to enhance their individual capabilities and learning experience through adapting the developments in information and communications technology in the learning process by providing access to educational materials available online.

Sec. 3. *Philippine E-Library.* - The Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Skills Development Authority, Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) in partnership with the National Library of the Philippines and other concerned government agencies shall develop an online repository system that contains educational materials and digitized copies of books and publications suitable for Filipino students and researchers that shall complement learning experience acquired through textbook and reference books given to the students.

Sec. 4. *Internet Access.* - The Department of Education shall ensure access to the online repository system by providing computers or electronic tablets or terminals to all primary and secondary public schools nationwide. In order to ensure access to the online repository system, the Department of Information and Communications Technology shall provide fast and reliable internet access to all e-libraries in all public schools.

Sec. 5. *Appropriations.* - The initial amount of Five Hundred Million (Php500,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the implementations of this Act and shall be managed by the Department of Education, and the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

An annual budget of One Hundred Million Pesos (Php100,000,000.00) will be included in the budget of the Department of Education to make sure that the technologies needed for the implementation of this Act will be maintained.

Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* – The Department of Education, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, and the National Library of the Philippines shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within one hundred and twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not thereby affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, and/or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,