



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5547

Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion
Third Congressional District, Camarines Sur

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The *Local Government Code of 1991* (Republic Act No. 7160) mandates that local government units (LGUs) provide basic services and facilities to their constituents. Among these essential services are public libraries and reading centers, which are fundamental to a well-informed and literate citizenry. This mandate was further strengthened by Republic Act No. 7743, also known as "*An Act Providing for the Establishment of Congressional, City, and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers Throughout the Philippines, Appropriating the Necessary Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes.*"

These laws declare a national policy to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people, elevate the literacy level of every Filipino, and recognize the vital role of knowledge and information in nation-building. However, a significant number of provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays across the country still lack access to these crucial facilities. The challenges of limited LGU funds and high capital outlay for physical infrastructure often hinder the full implementation of these important laws.

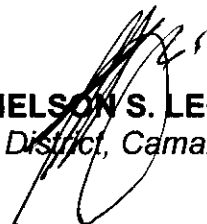
With the rapid advancement of the digital age, a cost-effective and modern alternative is to establish virtual libraries or "e-libraries" as digital resource centers. This approach significantly reduces the need for large physical spaces and extensive book collections, allowing for the rapid deployment of information hubs in areas that need them most.

Barangay Santa Lucia in the Municipality of Magarao, Camarines Sur, is a suitable location for this initiative. According to the 2020 Census of Population and Housing which was conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the barangay has a population of 6,478 people, a significant portion of whom are students, job seekers, and budding entrepreneurs. Providing this community with a dedicated digital resource center will not only comply with existing laws but also directly address the educational and socio-economic needs of its residents.

This proposed bill seeks to establish a Barangay Digital Resource Center (BDRC) in the Barangay Hall of Santa Lucia. This BDRC aims to realize the "3E" vision of Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship for the constituents of the 3D—the Third Congressional District of Camarines Sur. By providing a free and accessible digital platform equipped with at least three (3) computer units with internet access, the BDRC will serve as a vital hub for academic research, job applications, entrepreneurial activities, and general access to critical digital information.

This bill is a key part of a broader legislative effort to modernize the country's library system. The author has also filed complementary measures, including a bill to establish the Philippine Online Library, which will serve as the official digital repository for all textbooks and reference materials for public elementary and secondary education. In addition, another bill aims to create Late-Night Learning Hubs in all cities in the country. Together, these initiatives seek to transform traditional libraries into dynamic, digitally connected, and accessible learning centers for a new generation of Filipinos.

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


NELSON S. LEGACION
Representative, Third District, Camarines Sur



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BARANGAY DIGITAL RESOURCE CENTER AND
E-LIBRARY IN BARANGAY SANTA LUCIA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
MAGARAO, CAMARINES SUR, 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 the “*Barangay Santa Lucia E-Library Act*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and provide free and open access to information and communication technology (ICT) services for the public. This Act seeks to establish a modern e-library and digital resource center that serves as a hub for the “3E” vision: Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship, for the constituents of the “3D”—the Third Congressional District of Camarines Sur.

SECTION 3. Establishment of the Barangay Digital Resource Center. There is hereby established a Barangay Digital Resource Center (BDRC) in Barangay Santa Lucia, Magarao Camarines Sur. The BDRC shall be located in the Barangay Hall or a designated public space within the barangay. Its primary purpose is to provide free access to digital resources and services for all residents.

SECTION 4. Facilities and Services. The BDRC shall be equipped with at least three (3) computer units with a stable, high-speed internet connection. The services offered shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Educational and Research Access - Use of computers and the internet for academic research, online learning, and access to educational e-books and databases;

- b) **Employment and Livelihood Support** - Assistance for job seekers to create and print résumés and biodata, search for employment opportunities, and complete online application forms;
- c) **Entrepreneurial Development** - Provision of tools and resources for budding entrepreneurs to create logos, set up online business accounts, and access information on business registration and management; and
- d) **Printing and Photocopying** - Availability of a multi-function printer and photocopier for the use of students and other patrons

The use of all facilities and services shall be free of charge. Patrons may be required to present a valid identification card for record-keeping and proper monitoring of usage.

SECTION 5. *Funding.* The amount necessary for the initial establishment of the BDRC, including the procurement of computers, printers, and other essential equipment, shall be sourced from the General Appropriations Act (GAA). The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall be the lead agency in allocating these funds. The maintenance and operational costs of the BDRC, including internet service fees, electricity, and supplies, shall be the responsibility of the barangay and shall be charged to its annual budget.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the DILG the Secretaries of the DILG and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with the LGU of Magarao and the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. The IRR shall include guidelines for the management, security, and usage policies of the BDRC.

SECTION 7. *Non-Impairment Clause.* Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to marginalized or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, and Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,