

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City  
**20<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5602**



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Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In this digital era, providing books and research materials online has become not only practical but essential. For today's youth who are digital natives, the internet is often more accessible than physical libraries. Rather than a problem, this shift presents an opportunity to extend educational and research resources across the nation.

This Bill seeks to establish the Philippine Online Library through the Department of Information and Technology (DICT) and the Philippine National Library. They shall create and upload digital copies of public domain books, and materials published by the Philippine Government. These include books in the repository of the National Library, books published by the Department of Education, and other materials published by the Philippine Government, excluding those regarding national security.

*The creation of the Philippine Online Library is an investment for our future. It will grant students across the nation, including remote areas, immediate access to learning materials—potentially raising national literacy levels. Likewise, researchers in academia and policy-making will benefit from expanded access to crucial data, reinforcing our national development.*

In view of the foregoing, approval of this legislative measure is earnestly sought.

  
**JOEL R. CHUA**

Representative, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Manila

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ONLINE LIBRARY,**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

**Section 1. Short Title.-** This Act shall be known as the “Philippine Online Library Act”

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The State shall give priority to education, science and technology to accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Section 1, Article XIV of the Constitution 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.

To this end, the State must adapt to the increasingly digitized world and make educational and research materials more accessible.

**Section 3. Philippine Online Library.** - The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the National Library of the Philippines shall create and maintain a Philippine Online Library website containing all books of the National Library which are not or no longer covered by a copyright. It shall also maintain a digitize copy of all non-commercial books published by the Philippine Government including but not limited to books and other educational materials produced by the Department of Education (DepEd), and other reference materials published by various government agencies, excluding documents on national security.

The Philippine Online Library shall be made accessible to the public free of charge.

**Section 4. Custody Over Digitized Copies of Textbooks.** – The National Library of the Philippines shall have custody over the digitized copies of the textbooks while the Department of Information and Communications Technology shall ensure the technological management and structural integrity of the digital repository system.

**Section 5. Screening of Materials.** – The National Library, in coordination with the DepEd and other concerned government agencies, shall review all materials before these are uploaded to the Online Library. Only materials that are factual and aligned with national principles on ethics and proper conduct shall be accepted. The screening shall be based on fair and reasonable standards.

**Section 6. Safeguards against Piracy.** – The DICT and the National Library, in coordination with the Intellectual Property Office, shall ensure that the materials uploaded are no longer covered by copyright, and shall integrate measures to safeguard against piracy. All the materials available in the Online Library shall be free of charge and may not be reproduced for profit.

**Section 7. Appropriations.** - The initial amount of Three Hundred Million (Php300,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the immediate implementation of this Act, which shall be jointly managed by the DICT and the Philippine National Library. An annual budget of One Hundred Million (Php100,000,000.00) will be included in the annual budget of the Philippine National Library and the DICT for the maintenance and operation of the online library.

**Section 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DICT and the National Library of the Philippines, in consultation with other concerned agencies, shall have joint responsibility over the formulation of the implementing Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective execution and enforcement of this Act.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be released within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act.

**Section 9. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**Section 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**Section 11. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with an established internet website presence.

*Approved,*