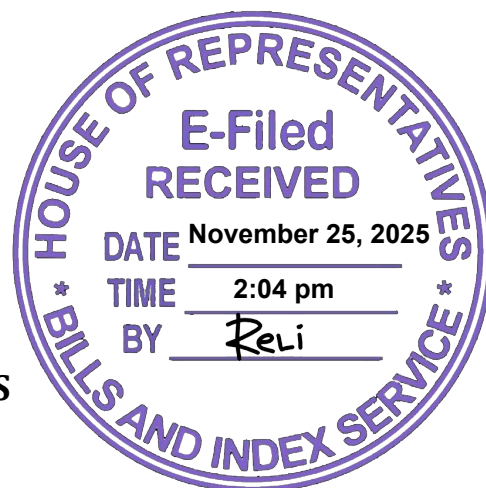




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6365**

Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many communities in the Philippines lack adequate cultural institutions that preserve local heritage, provide access to knowledge, and enrich civic life. In the Second District of Southern Leyte, residents primarily rely on informal or small-scale facilities for archival materials, historical collections and library services. This means students, researchers, older persons and the general public often travel significant distances to access major libraries or museums in adjacent regions limiting the regular use of reference collections, educational programs and heritage exhibitions.

This gap in institutional infrastructure contributes to weakened capacity for local heritage preservation, limited opportunities for community engagements in library programs, and low public utilization of archival or museum services. According to regional data, library-to-population ratios remain below national averages in many rural districts, and museum visits per capita in Southern Leyte lag behind more urbanized provinces. Without a local major facility, the district risks losing vital historical assets and the opportunity to promote lifelong learning and local cultural tourism.

This bill addresses these needs by establishing a dedicated Congressional Library and Museum for the Second District of Southern Leyte, to be located in the Municipality of Sogod. The new institution will provide a publicly accessible library collection, reading and research rooms, museum galleries for local cultural heritage, laboratories for archival work, public programming for educational outreach and tourism, and secure facilities for preservation of region-specific historical materials.

The law also mandates initial funding for construction, staffing and operations, and ensures continued appropriations for its sustainable management. By bringing these services and resources closer to the people of Sogod and neighboring municipalities, the measure will enhance educational opportunities, support heritage conservation, stimulate local economic activity through culture and tourism, and strengthen public access to knowledge and civic space.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte



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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. **6365**

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HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING THE SECOND DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN LEYTE CONGRESSIONAL
LIBRARY AND MUSEUM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOGOD, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN
LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. Second District of Southern Leyte Congressional Library and Museum. – There shall be established in the Municipality of Sugod, Province of Southern Leyte the Second District of Southern Leyte Congressional Library and Museum, 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 ten (10) computers units with access to the Internet, which shall be used exclusively for education and research purposes only. The use 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 Southern Leyte 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 are not limited to:
- 1) increasing the functional literacy rate;
 - 2) encouraging 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 Legislative District of Southern Leyte.
- (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 Communications Technology (DICT);
- (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 the following to manages the Second District of Southern Leyte Congressional Library:

- (a) Librarian III;
- (b) Librarian I;
- (c) Administrative Assistant III;
- (d) Computer File Librarian I;
- (e) Administrative Aide VI; and
- (f) Watchman (Security Guard).

The appointments of said positions shall be in accordance with the Compensation and Position Classification System and other civil service rules and regulations/ In addition, their salaries and allowances shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 11466, otherwise known as the "Salary Standardization Law of 2019," and other applicable laws.

Section 5. Appropriations. – The sum of Ten Million Pesos (P10,000,000) 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. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 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,