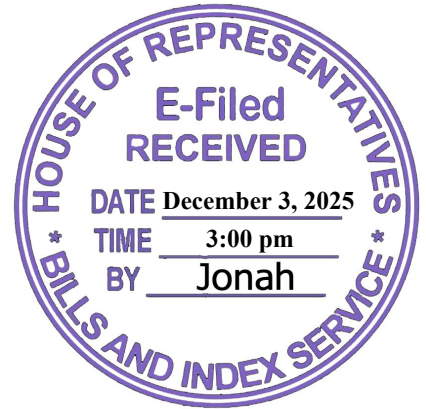


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6600



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE “EBOOKS FOR THE BARANGAY PROGRAM”, AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all.¹ One way this can be done is to increase people’s access to reliable and accurate educational materials. However, a 2023 survey reveals a decline in readership of non-school books. Children’s readership was at 47% while adult readership was at 42%, a sharp decrease from another 2017 survey that showed a peak of 93% in children’s readership and 80% in adult readership.² Among the reasons for this decline are limited access to books and limited awareness and distance of public libraries.

In this digital age, educational materials are no longer limited to printed books. Various learning materials, such as e-books, modules, video lectures, and podcasts, are already available online. However, the vastness of the internet can make it difficult or overwhelming for ordinary citizens or younger students to know where to start looking for correct and updated materials. The issue of lack of devices also makes it difficult to access e-books online.

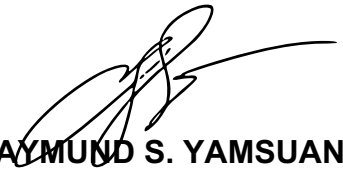
This bill aims to address these gaps by establishing a “Ebooks for the Barangay Program”, which will provide each barangay access to free and curated digital learning resources, including e-books and video lectures. This bill also seeks to provide

¹ 1987 Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1.

² <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/news/in-the-news/it-starts-with-reading>

electronic devices, such as tablets or e-readers to the barangays, to ensure that even those without personal gadgets can access these educational materials. This is our opportunity to democratize access to information and knowledge.

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



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

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Introduced by HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE “EBOOKS FOR THE BARANGAY PROGRAM”, AND
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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 “*Ebooks for the Barangay Program Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to ensure that quality educational materials are accessible to all. The State further recognizes the vital role of technology in democratizing information. Towards this end, the State affirms its commitment to expanding access to reliable and accurate digital educational materials that will be readily available at the barangay level.

SECTION 3. Establishment of the Ebooks for the Barangay Program. - There is hereby established a nationwide program to be known as the “Ebooks for the Barangay Program” under the Department of Education (DepEd). This program aims to provide each barangay with access to free and curated digital learning resources that support the academic needs of its residents.

SECTION 4. Program Components. – The Ebooks for the Barangay Program shall include the following components:

- (a) Digital library platform - This shall provide a secure and organized database of digital learning resources, including e-books, video lectures, simulations, and

other relevant materials, in various fields of study and in languages suitable for the local community.

- (b) Devices distribution - The program shall facilitate the provision of electronic devices, such as tablets or e-readers, to ensure access to digital library resources for all barangays, particularly in areas with limited internet access.
- (c) Capacity building - The Department of Education shall coordinate workshops and training programs to enhance digital literacy among barangay residents and develop skills in using e-resources.
- (d) Monitoring and evaluation - Periodic assessment and data collection shall be carried out to measure the program's success and inform its continuous improvement.

SECTION 5. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Education Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the continued implementation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Education, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act which shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

SECTION. 7. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended 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,