

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6601



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

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LATE-NIGHT LEARNING
HUBS IN HIGHLY URBANIZED AND FIRST-CLASS COMPONENT CITIES TO
PROVIDE SAFE, SUSTAINABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC STUDY SPACES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution declares 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.¹ One step taken by the government to make education more accessible is the establishment of public libraries in every city or municipality, and reading centers in every barangay throughout the Philippines.² While these public libraries can serve as study spaces for students, they often do not cater to those who need a conducive place to study late at night.

There are many reasons why students are compelled to study late at night. Some need to balance academic requirements with part time jobs and other responsibilities, leaving only the nighttime for studying, while others prefer the quiet of the evening³ These individuals often turn to commercial establishments, such as coffee shops, restaurants, and co-working spaces, to find a place to study. However, these places are not always conducive to learning, and can add an additional financial burden on students. Limited access to late-night study spaces can also widen the educational

¹ 1987 Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1.

² Republic Act No. 7743.

³ Caballero, K. A. (2024). After-dark Filipino Learners: Addressing the Stress Level and Grit among Higher Educational Learners and its Relationship to Academic Performance. *Journal of Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, 2(4), 13–19. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10780714>

gap between students who can afford commercial options and those who cannot.

This bill seeks to provide students with safe and accessible study spaces that will not require any additional cost. It seeks the establishment and operation of at least one public library or study hub in all highly urbanized cities and first-class component cities. These learning hubs shall be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and equipped with the amenities needed by students, such as internet, charging stations, study desks, and restrooms. With this measure, we want to expand students' access to safe and conducive study spaces, ensuring that no student is left behind.

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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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 “Late-Night Learning Hubs Act”.

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote inclusive access to quality education by ensuring that learners have safe learning spaces. Recognizing that many students study during late hours, the State affirms the need to provide accessible public facilities to support student productivity while safeguarding their welfare. Towards this end, the State shall institutionalize the establishment of public libraries or study hubs that remain 24/7, are accessible to all, well-equipped with learning resources, and designed to provide a safe and conducive environment for study.

SECTION 3. Mandatory Establishment of 24/7 Public Libraries or Study Hubs. - All highly urbanized cities (HUCs) and first-class component cities shall establish and operate at least one public library or study hub that remains open and operational twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

These facilities must be safe, well-lit, and equipped with essential amenities such as broadband internet, charging stations, study desks, proper ventilation, and clean

restroom facilities. They shall be designed or retrofitted in accordance with recognized green building standards, incorporating energy-efficient lighting, solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems, and other sustainability features to reduce their environmental footprint and operational costs.

SECTION. 4. Accessible Location and Active Transport Integration. - To promote inclusive mobility, 24/7 public libraries shall be located in accessible areas and supported by active transport infrastructure, including but not limited to bicycle racks, pedestrian walkways, and proximity to public transportation stops to ensure ease of access for users at all hours.

SECTION 5. Green and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure and Procurement - To encourage sustainability and resilience in public infrastructure, local government units are strongly encouraged to design, retrofit, and operate Late-Night Learning Hubs in accordance with green building principles and climate-adaptive features. This may include the use of energy-efficient lighting, passive cooling systems, solar energy, water-saving technologies, and disaster-resilient design, particularly in flood- or earthquake-prone areas.

LGUs are further encouraged to adopt environmentally and culturally responsive procurement practices. This includes prioritizing locally sourced, renewable, or recycled materials—such as sustainably harvested bamboo, rattan, abaca, and other indigenous and heritage-based materials—for furniture, furnishings, and finishes used within the hubs.

In support of these efforts, national government agencies may provide technical assistance, knowledge-sharing platforms, or grant incentives to LGUs that adopt innovative or exemplary green and cultural design practices in their implementation of this Act.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall develop supplemental guidelines or incentive programs to support local governments in adopting sustainable and culturally respectful standards under this section.

SECTION 6. Social Inclusion and Accessibility. - No person shall be denied access to Late-Night Learning Hubs on the basis of age, gender, disability, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression (SOGIE), or socioeconomic status.

All facilities shall adopt gender-responsive and disability-inclusive designs, including but not limited to: separate and secure restrooms for all genders; ramps, tactile surfaces, and assistive technology for persons with disabilities; and well-lit, safe premises with trained security personnel and surveillance systems.

The design and operation of these facilities shall be coordinated with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

SECTION 7. Safe Spaces and Anti-Harassment Protocols. - The Late-Night Learning Hubs shall implement safety measures in accordance with Republic Act No. 11313 or the Safe Spaces Act. Library staff and security personnel shall undergo gender sensitivity and anti-sexual harassment training. Each facility shall post clear safe space guidelines, and provide accessible mechanisms for reporting and addressing violations.

SECTION 8. Community Participation and Feedback Mechanisms. - LGUs shall ensure meaningful community engagement in the planning and operation of Late-Night Learning Hubs. Youth groups, student organizations, women's and PWD organizations, and civil society shall be consulted. Each facility shall maintain an anonymous feedback system, both onsite and online, to continuously monitor safety, accessibility, and service delivery.

SECTION 9. Support from National Agencies. - The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), shall assist LGUs in the planning, technical implementation, staffing, and sustainability of these facilities.

SECTION 10. Implementation Plan and Reporting. - Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, covered LGUs shall submit to the DILG a library development and operations plan that includes site identification, facility design, sustainability components, budget allocation, and staffing arrangements for overnight operations.

The DILG shall consolidate and submit an annual progress report to Congress on the status of implementation, challenges encountered, and best practices, for a period of five (5) years.

SECTION. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, in coordination with DepEd, DICT, DENR, CCC, NLP, PCW, NCDA, and CHR, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 12. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned local government units. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the continued implementation shall be included in the annual budgets of the concerned LGUs.

SECTION. 13. 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. 14. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,