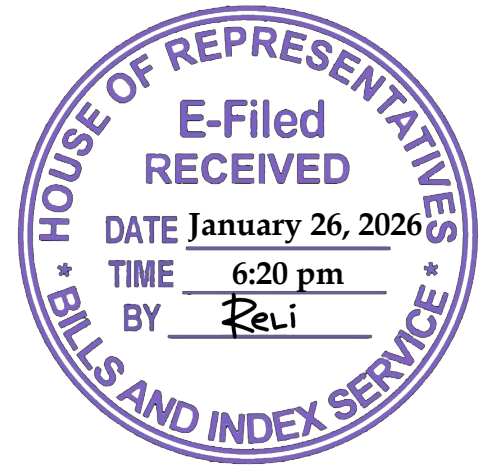


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7371**



Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to quality learning materials is an essential component of the right to education guaranteed under the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.¹ In an era where digital platforms are increasingly integrated into the classroom and distance learning, ensuring the availability of textbooks and instructional materials in accessible digital formats is a necessary step toward fulfilling the State's duty to make basic education truly inclusive and equitable.

This bill, the "*E-Textbook Para sa Lahat Act*," mandates that all textbooks and instructional materials intended for use in basic education and submitted for Department of Education ("DepEd") approval or procurement be accompanied by a digital version, in accessible formats (such as PDF or EPUB), and that these digital versions be made available free of charge to DepEd. These digital copies shall then be distributed or made accessible to learners, teachers, and schools at no cost through DepEd-authorized platforms. Compliance with this requirement shall serve as a condition for DepEd approval, endorsement, or procurement of such materials.

In recognition of the evolving needs of a 21st-century education system, the bill also mandates the DepEd to encourage the creation, adaptation, and use of Open Educational Resources ("OER") — freely accessible, openly licensed teaching and learning materials. The DepEd is tasked to provide appropriate incentives and policy support for schools, educators, and authors who contribute to the development of OER for the K to 12 curriculum.

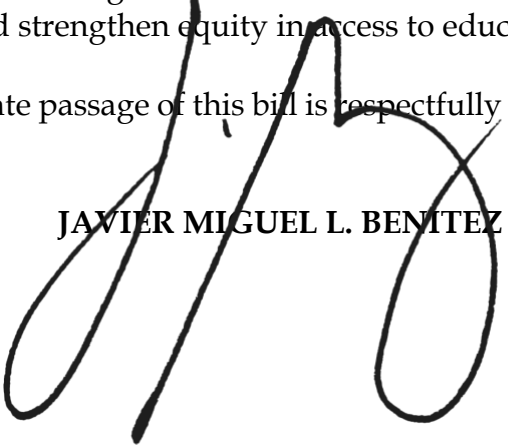
¹ 1987 Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1.

The measure supports the implementation of the State's mandate under the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013 to ensure universal access to quality, learner-centered education through flexible learning options and strengthened resource development.²

This measure is neither aspirational nor abstract. It is a deliberate response to the persistent realities faced by millions of Filipino learners and educators: insufficient textbooks, outdated instructional content, and classrooms where resources meant for individual use are shared collectively out of necessity. It affirms the State's obligation to ensure equitable access to quality learning materials and advances a vision of an inclusive and learner-centered education system. In doing so, it positions the State to take a more proactive role in harnessing technology for public service and educational equity.

This measure is filed as a counterpart to a Senate bill introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV, and is aligned with similar proposals filed in both chambers of Congress. It reflects a shared legislative commitment to modernize the delivery of learning resources and strengthen equity in access to education.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is respectfully sought.



JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ

² Republic Act No. 10533, "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013." (2013).

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House Bill No. **7371**

Introduced by **REP. JAVIER MIGUEL L. BENITEZ**

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE FREE DIGITAL PROVISION OF TEXTBOOKS
USED IN BASIC EDUCATION, ENCOURAGING OPEN
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, 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 "*E-Textbook Para
Sa Lahat Act.*"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote accessible, inclusive, and equitable education for all. Recognizing the transformative potential of digital learning tools, the State shall ensure that essential educational resources, including textbooks, are accessible in both print and digital formats at no cost to learners. The State shall also encourage the creation, adaptation, and use of Open Educational Resources ("OER") to foster collaboration, innovation, and equity in education.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all textbooks and instructional materials used in basic education, whether for public or private schools, and approved or recognized by the Department of Education ("DepEd") pursuant to existing laws, policies, and regulations.

SEC. 4. *Mandatory Free Digital Format and Condition for DepEd Approval.* – All authors, publishers, or copyright holders of textbooks and instructional

materials intended for use in basic education and submitted for DepEd approval or procurement shall:

(a) Provide an electronic or digital version of the material in a format accessible on standard digital devices (PDF or EPUB);

(b) Make such digital versions available to the DepEd free of charge; and

(c) Authorize the DepEd to distribute or make accessible such digital copies, at no cost, to learners, teachers, and schools via DepEd-authorized platforms.

Provided, That compliance with the foregoing shall be a prerequisite for the approval, endorsement, procurement, or inclusion of such materials in the official list of textbooks and learning resources of the DepEd.

SEC. 5. *Promotion of Open Educational Resources.* – To further enhance access to quality education, the DepEd shall encourage the development, use, and adaptation of OER, freely accessible, openly licensed educational materials that can be used, shared, adapted, and redistributed.

DepEd shall include in its policies incentives and support mechanisms for schools, educators, and authors that develop OER for use in the K to 12 curriculum.

SEC. 6. *Non-Compliance.* – Failure to comply with the requirements under this Act shall disqualify the textbook or learning material from consideration for DepEd approval, endorsement, or procurement. Additional sanctions may be imposed in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd shall issue the necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act. Such regulations shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Technical standards for digital formats;

(b) Guidelines for access and distribution;

(c) Provisions to ensure the digital version is identical in content to the approved print version;

(d) Measures to ensure accessibility for learners with disabilities;

(e) Data privacy and copyright safeguards.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,