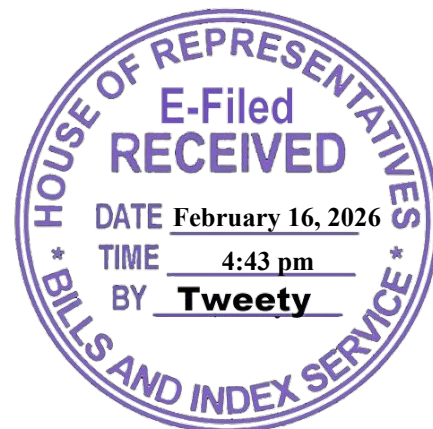


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7827



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports in order to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human development. Complementarily, Article XIV, Section 1 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.

In recent years, the Philippine education system has undergone rapid digital transformation. While this transition accelerated during periods of national disruption, the shift toward technology-enabled learning has continued beyond emergency conditions. Public schools increasingly rely on blended and digital learning platforms, online repositories, electronic modules, and remote access tools. However, access to learning materials remains uneven and fragmented, particularly in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

The absence of a centralized, government-maintained digital repository of academic resource materials has resulted in duplication of effort, inconsistent quality of materials, and inequitable access across regions. Many schools continue to depend on printed modules with limited circulation, while others rely on disparate online sources that are not uniformly vetted, standardized, or aligned with the national curriculum.

At the same time, the country continues to confront persistent learning gaps, declining literacy and numeracy benchmarks, and disparities in educational outcomes. Addressing these challenges requires systemic reform not only in pedagogy but in infrastructure and resource accessibility.

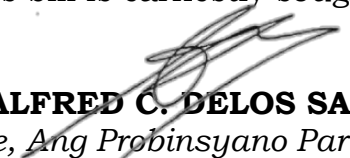
Digitization of academic materials offers a scalable and cost-efficient solution. Properly implemented, a centralized digital library would:

1. Ensure simultaneous and nationwide access to curriculum-aligned materials for learners and teachers;
2. Reduce recurring printing, storage, and logistics costs associated with physical modules;
3. Standardize and quality-assure instructional content;
4. Preserve educational resources against physical deterioration, disaster-related loss, and obsolescence; and
5. Support blended and hybrid learning models consistent with modern educational practices.

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Online Library, a centralized digital platform that will compile, curate, and provide access to digitized academic resource materials for public primary and secondary schools nationwide. The measure also provides for the necessary infrastructure support to ensure equitable access, particularly for underserved schools.

By institutionalizing a national digital learning repository, the State strengthens educational resilience, promotes equal access to quality materials, and advances its constitutional mandate to make education truly accessible to all.

Based on the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 7827

Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
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AN ACT
DIGITIZING ALL BOOKS NECESSARY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE ONLINE LIBRARY, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR, 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 of 2026.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Thus, the State shall endeavor to introduce measures that will allow its citizens to catch up with the increasingly digitized approach to education and remove barriers to access to necessary online educational materials.

SECTION 3. *Philippine Online Library.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall create digitized copies of all textbooks and reference books as it deems necessary for the public education of Philippine primary and secondary school students. These digitized copies shall be compiled in the Philippine Online Library which shall be jointly managed by the DepEd, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL).

SECTION 4. *Provision for Access to the Digitized Copies of Textbooks.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall ensure access to the digitized copies of textbooks by providing computers, laptops, or appropriate wherewithal to all primary and secondary public schools nationwide.

SECTION 5. *Additional Online Educational Materials.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) is recommended to tap the National Library of the Philippines to supplement the Philippine Online Library’s digital repository of

textbooks with additional materials that are representative of Filipino culture and literature. DepEd shall also be allowed to add other online materials that it deems necessary for expanding the learning opportunities of students.

SECTION 6. *Custody Over Digitized Copies of Textbooks.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the National Library of the Philippines shall have joint custody over digitized copies of the textbooks. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) in consultation with the IPOPHL shall likewise ensure the technological management of the digital repository to ensure the integrity of the system and its compliance with intellectual property laws.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* – Such amount as may be necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be drawn from and managed by the Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), and the National Library of the Philippines shall have joint responsibility for the formulation and promulgation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective execution and enforcement of this Act. They shall do so in close coordination and consultation with the Department of Science and Technology, IPOPHL, and other stakeholders. The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be released within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,