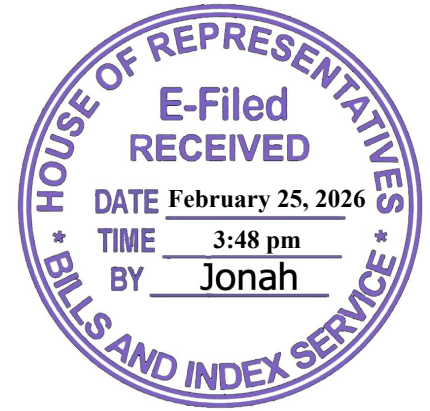


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8094



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY READING CENTERS
IN EVERY BARANGAY OF THE FIFTH DISTRICT OF QUEZON CITY,
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED LITERACY SUPPORT, PROVIDING
INCENTIVES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND PRIVATE
STAKEHOLDERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) identified a severe foundational learning crisis in the Philippines, particularly in early-grade literacy. A significant number of Filipino learners in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are unable to read at grade level, undermining long-term educational outcomes, workforce readiness, and national development.

EDCOMII emphasized that schools alone cannot resolve the literacy crisis. It called for stronger community-based interventions, expanded local government unit (LGU) participation, and whole-of-society approaches to foundational learning. Barangays, as the most basic political units, are uniquely positioned to provide accessible and localized reading support that complements schooling.

This measure seeks to institutionalize Barangay Community Reading Center in every barangay within the Fifth District of Quezon City, as non-formal, supplementary learning hubs focused on foundational literacy. These Centers are envisioned to support early-grade learners and identified non-readers through structured reading mediation, enrichment activities, and community-

led literacy programs aligned with existing Department of Education frameworks.

By adopting a results-oriented, incentive-based approach, this measure enables the barangays of the Fifth District of Quezon City to pilot a sustainable model for literacy support that complements formal schooling, promotes civic participation, and strengthens partnerships among local government units, schools, civil society, and the private sector.

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



REP. PATRICK MICHAEL “PM” D. VARGAS

Fifth District, Quezon City

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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 “**District V Community Reading Centers and Foundational Literacy Support Act.**”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to prioritize foundational literacy as a cornerstone of quality education. The State shall promote community-based, inclusive, and collaborative approaches to improve reading proficiency, and collaborative approaches to improve reading proficiency among learners and non-readers through localized interventions that complement formal schooling.

SECTION 3. Coverage. This Act shall apply to all fourteen (14) barangays presently comprising the Fifth District of Quezon City, namely: Bagbag, Capri, Fairview, Gulod, Greater Lagro, Kaligayahan, Nagkaisang Nayon, North Fairview, Novaliches Proper, Pasong Putik, San Agustin, San Bartolome, Sta. Lucia, and Sta. Monica.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

1. Community Reading Center (CRC) - refers to a barangay-based, non-formal learning facility that provides structured reading support, remediation, and literacy activities for Kindergarten to Grade 3 learners and other identified non-readers;
2. Foundational Literacy – refers to the ability to read with understanding and fluency appropriate to early grade levels;
3. Reading Facilitator – refers to a trained individual who conducts reading sessions and literacy interventions in a Community Reading Center;
4. Private Supporting Establishments - refer to private entities, including corporations, partnerships, cooperatives, and sole proprietorships, that provide financial, material, or technical assistance to Community Reading Centers.

SECTION 5. Establishment of Community Reading Centers. Community Reading Center shall be established in every barangay within the Fifth District of Quezon City, subject to the availability of suitable space and resources.

Community Reading Centers may be housed in existing facilities such as barangay halls, day care centers, public or private schools after class hours, or other suitable community spaces. No new building shall be required unless existing facilities are unavailable.

SECTION 6. Functions of Community Reading Centers. – Community Reading Centers shall:

1. Provide reading remediation and enrichment programs aligned with DepEd-approved literacy frameworks, including existing programs such as Early Language, Literacy, and Numeracy (ELLN) and similar initiatives;
2. Support learners in Kindergarten to Grade 3 and other identified struggling or non-readers;
3. Conduct or support regular reading assessments in coordination with partner schools;
4. Engage parents, guardians, and community volunteers in literacy activities;
5. Serve as venues for reading camps, storytelling sessions, and community-based literacy programs.

SECTION 7. Reading Facilitators and Capacity Building. Reading activities shall be conducted by trained Reading Facilitators, who may include Alternative Learning System (ALS) teachers, public school teachers on voluntary assignment, barangay child development workers, or accredited volunteers.

Relevant training and capacity-building programs for Reading Facilitators shall be conducted in coordination with the Schools Division Office of Quezon City and concerned agencies.

SECTION 8. Integration with Public and Private Schools. Community Reading Centers shall complement and support existing public and private school literacy programs and shall not replace formal instruction.

Schools are encouraged to partner with Community Reading Centers for learner referral, reading diagnostics, remediation, and progress monitoring.

SECTION 9. Roles of Local Government Units. Barangays within the Fifth District shall serve as primary implementers of Community Reading Centers.

The Quezon City Government shall provide technical, administrative, and logistical support to barangays, including access to training, learning materials, and coordination with schools and relevant national government agencies.

SECTION 10. Incentives for Barangays. Barangays with operational and compliant Community Reading Centers demonstrating measurable improvements in reading outcomes shall be eligible for incentives, including but not limited to:

- a. Priority access to literacy-related training programs and educational assistance;
- b. Public recognition through awards or certification programs administered by the City Government; and
- c. Access to grants or support from partner institutions.

SECTION 11. Incentives for Private Supporting Establishments. Private Supporting Establishments that donate books, learning materials, equipment, facilities, or financial support to accredited Community Reading Centers shall be entitled to tax incentives in accordance with existing provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

SECTION 11. Funding. Funding for Community Reading Centers shall be sourced from the Special Education Fund (SEF) of Quezon City, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations, as well as from grants or donations from private and civil society partners.

Barangays shall not be required to fund Community Reading Centers solely from their regular funds.

SECTION 13. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Congressional Oversight. The Quezon City Government, in coordination with the Schools Division Office of Quezon City, shall establish a monitoring and evaluation system focused on literacy outcomes, learner participation, and program effectiveness.

SECTION 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, in coordination with the Quezon City Government and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 13. Repealing Clause. – All laws, orders, rules, and regulations, other issuances, or any part thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,