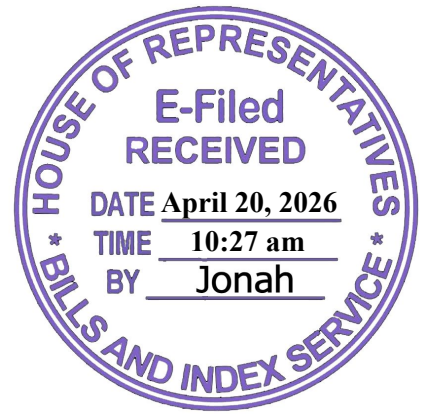


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8883**



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE FREE DIGITAL PROVISION OF TEXTBOOKS USED
IN BASIC EDUCATION, ENCOURAGING OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, “[t]he 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.” However, quality education remains inaccessible to millions of Filipino learners due to various barriers. Among these barriers is the lack of access to textbooks, which remains constrained by cost, availability, and outdated materials.

In an age where technology and digital connectivity have become increasingly integrated in education, digital platforms are widely used to enhance classroom and distance learning. The creation and use of accessible digital formats of textbooks and instructional materials is a necessary step towards improving access to quality basic education and ensuring that basic education is truly inclusive and equitable to all Filipino learners.

This bill mandates that all textbooks and instructional materials approved for use in basic education by the Department of Education (DepEd) be made available in electronic or digital formats, free of charge. The DepEd shall be authorized to distribute and make accessible the digital versions, at no cost, to learners, teachers, and schools through DepEd-authorized platforms. Compliance with this requirement serves as a prerequisite for the learning material’s approval, endorsement, procurement, or inclusion in the official list of textbooks and learning resources of the DepEd.

Additionally, the bill provides that the DepEd shall encourage the creation, development, use, and adaptation of Open Educational Resources (OER), which shall be freely accessible and openly licensed educational materials. The DepEd is also tasked to provide incentives and support to schools, educators, and authors who develop OER for use in the K to 12 curriculum.

By mandating the free digital versions of textbooks and supporting the development of OER, this proposed measure:

- Reduces the financial burden on Filipino students and families;
- Enhances access to up-to-date learning materials;
- Encourages innovation and collaboration in education;
- Supports alternative and flexible learning modes, especially in times of disruption; and
- Aligns textbook policies with 21st-century digital learning realities.

In the 20th Congress, similar bills were filed by Senator Benigno “Bam” Aquino and Representatives Walfredo “Arman” Dimaguila, Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Yedda Marie Romualdez, Andrew Julian Romualdez, Jude Acidre, and Javier Miguel Benitez. This bill fully adopts Senator Aquino’s SBN 122.

To affirm the State’s commitment to equity, inclusivity, and innovation in education, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 SECTION. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*E-Textbook Para*
2 *Sa Lahat Act.*”
3

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote
5 accessible, inclusive, and equitable education for all. Recognizing the transformative
6 potential of digital learning tools, the State shall ensure that essential educational
7 resources, including textbooks and other instructional materials, are accessible in both
8 print and digital formats at no cost to learners. The State shall also encourage the
9 creation, adaptation, and use of open educational resources (OER) to foster
10 collaboration, innovation, and equity in education.
11

12 SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all textbooks and instructional
13 materials used in basic education, whether for public or private schools, and approved
14 or recognized by the Department of Education (DepEd) pursuant to existing laws,
15 policies, and regulations.
16

17 SEC. 4. *Mandatory Free Digital Format and Condition for DepEd Approval.* –
18 All authors, publishers, or copyright holders of textbooks and instructional materials
19 intended for use in basic education and submitted for DepEd approval or procurement
20 shall:

- 21 a) Provide an electronic or digital version of the material in a format
22 accessible on standard digital devices (PDF or EPUB);
23 b) Make such digital versions available to the DepEd free of charge; and

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

4 *Provided*, That compliance with the foregoing shall be a prerequisite for the
5 approval, endorsement, procurement, or inclusion of such materials in the official list
6 of textbooks and learning resources of the DepEd.
7

8 SEC. 5. *Promotion of Open Educational Resources*. – To further enhance
9 access to quality education, the DepEd shall encourage the development, use, and
10 adaptation of Open Educational Resources (OER), which are freely accessible and
11 openly licensed educational materials that can be used, shared, adapted, and
12 redistributed.
13

14 The DepEd shall include in its policies incentives and support mechanisms for
15 schools, educators, and authors that develop OER for use in the K to 12 curriculum.
16

17 SEC. 6. *Non-Compliance*. – Failure to comply with the requirements under this
18 Act shall disqualify the textbook or learning material from consideration for DepEd
19 approval, endorsement, or procurement. Additional sanctions may be imposed in
20 accordance with the implementing rules and regulations.
21

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

- 25 a) Technical standards for digital formats;
- 26 b) Guidelines for access, digital publication and/or distribution;
- 27 c) Provisions to ensure the digital version is identical in content to the
28 approved print version;
- 29 d) Measures to ensure accessibility for learners with disabilities;
- 30 e) Data privacy and copyright safeguards.
31

32 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause*. – If any section or provision of this Act is declared
33 invalid or unconstitutional, the sections or provisions not affected thereby shall
34 continue to be in full force and effect.
35

36 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive and
37 administrative orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
38 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
39 accordingly.
40

41 SEC. 10. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
42 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
43 Philippines.

Approved,