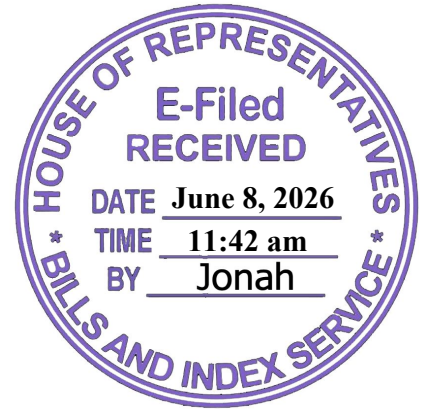


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9823



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to quality education is a constitutional right and a vital foundation of national development. Yet many Filipino learners continue to face difficulties in obtaining timely and affordable access to textbooks and other essential learning materials. In an increasingly digital world, educational resources must be made more accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of learners.

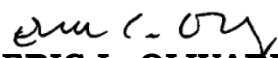
This bill requires that all textbooks and instructional materials submitted for approval, adoption, or procurement by the Department of Education (DepEd) be accompanied by a digital copy that may be made available free of charge to learners, teachers, and schools through DepEd-authorized platforms. Compliance with this requirement shall be a condition for DepEd approval and procurement.

The measure likewise promotes the development and use of Open Educational Resources (OER), which are freely accessible and openly licensed educational materials that may be used, adapted, and shared to expand learning opportunities.

By ensuring the free digital availability of approved learning resources, this measure will reduce costs for families, expand access to quality educational materials, support flexible learning modalities, and help build a more inclusive, resilient, and future-ready basic education system.

The measure respects and preserves the intellectual property rights of authors and publishers while advancing the State's responsibility to make education more accessible to all.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 9823

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**“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 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.*”

SECTION 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 approved textbooks and learning resources used in basic education are made available in digital format at no cost to learners, without prejudice to existing policies governing the provision of printed instructional materials. The State shall likewise encourage the creation, adaptation, and use of Open Educational Resources (OER) to foster collaboration, innovation, and equity in education.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- a) “*Digital Copy*” refers to an electronic version of a textbook or instructional material that faithfully reproduces the content of the approved printed version and is accessible through commonly used digital devices;
- b) “*Open Educational Resources (OER)*” refer to teaching, learning, and research materials in any medium that are in the public domain or released under an open license that permits free access, use, adaptation, and redistribution;
- c) “*Instructional Materials*” refer to textbooks, workbooks, teacher's guides, reference materials, and other learning resources

intended for use in basic education; and

- d) “*DepEd-Authorized Platform*” refers to any digital repository, learning management system, website, application, or other platform officially designated by the Department of Education for the distribution of learning resources.

SECTION 4. Mandatory Free Digital Format and Condition for DepEd Approval. – All publishers, authors, copyright owners, or other rights holders of textbooks and instructional materials submitted for evaluation, approval, adoption, endorsement, or procurement by the Department of Education (DepEd) shall:

- a) Provide a digital copy of the material in a format accessible on standard digital devices, including but not limited to PDF or EPUB;
- b) Submit such digital copy to the DepEd free of charge; and
- c) Authorize the DepEd to make such digital copy available through DepEd-authorized platforms or other authorized channels solely for educational purposes and without charge to learners, teachers, and schools.

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

The digital copies provided under this Act shall not be sold, licensed for profit, or otherwise commercially exploited by any person or entity.

SECTION 5. Promotion of Open Educational Resources. – To further enhance access to quality education, the DepEd shall encourage the development, use, adaptation, and dissemination of Open Educational Resources (OER), which are freely accessible and openly licensed educational materials that may be used, shared, adapted, and redistributed.

The DepEd shall formulate a program for the development, adoption, and dissemination of OER and may collaborate with state universities and colleges, local government units, private educational institutions, civil society organizations, professional associations, and development partners for this purpose.

The DepEd shall likewise establish policies providing incentives and support mechanisms for schools, educators, and authors that develop OER for use in the basic education curriculum.

SECTION 6. *Non-Compliance.* Failure to comply with the requirements of this Act shall be sufficient ground for the rejection, delisting, or disqualification of the textbook or instructional material from DepEd approval, adoption, endorsement, or procurement, without prejudice to other administrative remedies available under applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

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

SECTION 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.