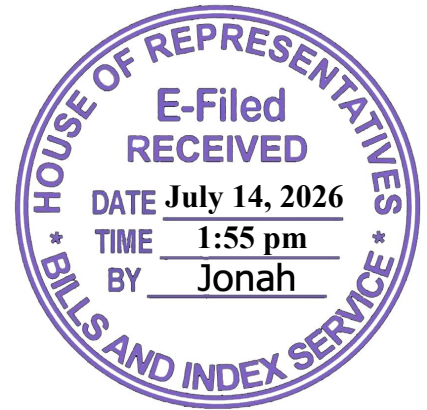




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **10055**

**Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez,
Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A.
Acidre**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE DIGITAL READINESS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS THROUGH THE DIGITAL HIGHER
EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution 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.”* Likewise, Section 10, Article XIV declares that *“Science and technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization.”* These provisions recognize that education and technology are inseparable drivers of inclusive national progress.

In line with these constitutional mandates, the government must take deliberate measures to ensure that higher education institutions (HEIs) are equipped to respond to the realities of a rapidly changing, technology-driven world. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerabilities of Philippine higher education, as institutions struggled to transition to online and blended learning due to inadequate infrastructure, uneven faculty training, and persistent digital divides. These challenges revealed that digital transformation is no longer

optional, but essential to guarantee access, resilience, and competitiveness in higher education.

The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), created under Republic Act No. 11899, has explicitly identified digital transformation and educational technologies as one of its priority reform areas in higher education. According to its framework, HEIs must become “*digitally connected, innovative, and technologically capable, with infrastructure for digital transformation*” to meet the needs of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (EDCOM II Priority Areas, 2023). EDCOM II also underscored the urgency of developing digital literacy, strengthening faculty competencies, and building equitable access to technology to ensure that all learners benefit from digital advances (EDCOM II Year 2 Report, 2025).

This bill, therefore, seeks to institutionalize a comprehensive framework for the Digital Higher Education Transformation Act, which shall strengthen the digital readiness of higher education institutions by:

- Upgrading digital infrastructure and connectivity in SUCs, LUCs, and private HEIs;
- Building capacity of faculty, administrators, and students in digital literacy, pedagogy, and research;
- Establishing national standards for online and blended learning, micro-credentials, and digital quality assurance;
- Ensuring equitable access to digital education for underserved and disadvantaged learners; and
- Aligning higher education with the digital economy and the recommendations of EDCOM II to make Philippine graduates globally competitive.

By passing this measure will empower HEIs to serve as hubs of innovation, inclusion, and excellence, redefining their role in society and ensuring that no Filipino learner is left behind in the digital era.

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



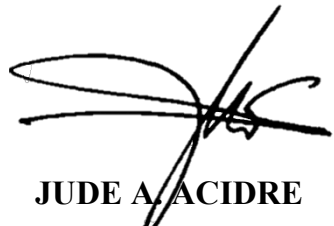
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10055

Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez,
Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A.
Acidre

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE DIGITAL READINESS OF HIGHER
EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS THROUGH THE DIGITAL HIGHER
EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, 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 “Digital Higher Education Transformation Act”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote accessible, inclusive, and globally competitive higher education by strengthening the digital readiness of higher education institutions (HEIs). Pursuant to Article XIV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution, the State shall take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all, while fostering innovation, digital equity, and national development.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – This Act shall pursue the following Objectives:

- a. Upgrade the digital infrastructure of HEIs to support online, blended, and flexible learning.
- b. Build the capacity of faculty, administrators, and students in digital literacy, teaching, and research;
- c. Develop national standards for digital learning, quality assurance, and technology-enabled education;
- d. Ensure equitable access to digital higher education for students from underserved and disadvantaged sectors;
- e. Operationalize the digital transformation agenda identified by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II).

SEC. 4. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall cover all higher education institutions, whether publicly or privately operated, encompassing state universities and colleges (SUCs), local universities and colleges (LUCs), as well as duly recognized private HEIs.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, CHED, in consultation with DICT, DBM, DEPDEV, SUCs, and representatives of private HEIs, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders or issuances or any part thereof, which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,