



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9532

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ESPARES, YATCO, COLLANTES, LARA, CHUA-TAI, CARI, YNARES, CRUZADO, ROMULO, GALEOS,
CO-PILAR, SALCEDA, DE LIMA AND BAUTISTA-LIM

AN ACT
PROVIDING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DIGITAL ACADEMIC TEXTBOOKS,
LEARNING MATERIALS, AND WIRELESS FIDELITY FOR STUDENTS IN
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS THROUGH
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL ACADEMIC CONTENT REPOSITORY

*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 “Universal Access to
2 Digital Academic Learning Resources Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. Objectives.** – As used in this Act:

- 4 (a) Provide free and equitable access to digital academic learning resources
5 for students enrolled in both public and private higher education institutions
6 (HEIs);
- 7 (b) Establish a National Academic Content Repository that hosts
8 government-funded and openly licensed educational content;
- 9 (c) Ensure free high-speed wireless fidelity (wi-fi) in all HEIs to facilitate digital
10 learning and research; and
- 11 (d) Support the development, digitization, and sharing of locally produced
12 academic content.

13 **SEC. 3. National Academic Content Repository.** – There shall be created a
14 National Academic Content Repository, hereinafter referred to as the NACR, to be
15 placed under the supervision and management of the Commission on Higher
16 Education (CHED), in partnership with the Department of Information and
17 Communications Technology (DICT), state universities and colleges (SUCs), local
18 universities and colleges (LUCs), and private higher education institutions (PHEIs).
19 The NACR shall:

- (a) Store and disseminate digital textbooks, lecture videos, syllabi, research papers, and open educational resources (OERs) across disciplines;
- (b) Provide free online access to all students and faculty of HEIs nationwide;
- (c) Ensure that the content is quality-assured, accessible, inclusive, and culturally relevant; and
- (d) Encourage faculty-generated content, with appropriate academic recognition and attribution.

SEC. 4. Digital Content Development and Acquisition. – To populate the NACR, the CHED shall:

- (a) Acquire licenses for digital textbooks and resources used in higher education programs;
- (b) Promote the creation of localized and open educational resources through grants to HEIs and the faculty members;
- (c) Work with national and international publishers to secure affordable or open access arrangements; and
- (d) Establish content review panels to ensure academic quality and accuracy.

SEC. 5. Free Wi-Fi Access in HEIs. – The DICT, in partnership with HEIs, shall implement campus-wide high-speed wi-fi access with the following features:

- (a) Free of charge to all faculty and enrolled students;
- (b) Secure and monitored to protect user privacy and prevent misuse; and
- (c) Designed to support access to the NACR and other academic services.

Priority shall be given to rural and under-resourced campuses during the initial implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. Responsibilities of HEIs. – Each HEI shall:

- (a) Designate an Open Learning Resources Unit or officer to coordinate with the CHED and the DICT;
- (b) Encourage faculty to contribute, adapt, and use digital content from the NACR;
- (c) Support students in digital literacy and responsible use of online academic resources; and
- (d) Integrate NACR content into library services and course delivery.

SEC. 7. Capacity Building and Incentives. – The CHED shall offer:

- (a) Training and workshops for faculty on creating digital materials and OERs;
- (b) Recognition and incentives for academic content creators whose work is used nationally; and

1 (c) Technical assistance to SUCs, LUCs, and PHEIs for wi-fi installation,
2 server setup, and NACR access.

3 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from
4 the effectivity of this Act, the CHED and the DICT shall, in coordination with the HEIs and
5 other stakeholders, issue rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

6 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be held
7 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in
8 full force and effect.

9 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
10 rules and regulations, and issuances or any part thereof, which are contrary or
11 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or modified
12 accordingly.

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

Approved,