

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 AUG 22 AIO :19

SENATE
S.B. No. 1050

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM IN ALL PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

High quality internet access is a crucial necessity in today's learning environment.

The Internet is a powerful tool that can facilitate innovative learning, allowing one to access limitless amounts of information and opinions communicated in a variety of ways, from creative videos to articles and even engaging games.

Instructors and students alike must be given the opportunity to utilize the Internet for meaningful research, collaboration, and learning.

The Department of Education even built its Learner Information System online so teacher's modules are centralized, easily updated, and easily accessed anywhere in the Philippines

While learners are often discouraged or banned from going online at schools due to distractions like social media, we cannot deny that in this Information Age, measures to prohibit the youth's access to the internet is impractical.

Instead of discouraging internet use at schools, we must train our students - "digital natives" - to engage with World Wide Web in a responsible way that furthers their personal and academic development.

This bill seeks to establish an Internet Access Program in all public educational institutions in the country including State Universities and Colleges, as well as all public primary and secondary schools.

Under this bill, the Department of Information and Communications Technology would be mandated to ensure that all institutions covered under the Act provide reliable internet connection to students, faculty members and other non-teaching personnel in all publicly accessible and common areas on the premises.

Alongside our nation's educational reforms geared toward making the Filipino a globally competitive citizen, we must provide our students with the necessary tools to facilitate the highest quality of learning. The Internet proves to be our most useful ally in the endeavor to provide equal access to excellent education offering the same access to information whether situated in an urbanized town or a far-flung barangay. Providing internet access in all public learning institutions will allow all Filipino learners with a gateway to the rest of the world.

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


Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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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 “Free Internet in Public Schools Act.”
- 2 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the
3 right of all citizens to quality education in all levels and to take appropriate steps to make
4 such education accessible to all.
- 5 Towards this end, the State shall establish an Internet Access Program in all public
6 schools in all levels throughout the country by providing internet connection facilities,
7 training personnel about applications and developing a system for its effective
8 implementation.
- 9 **SECTION 3. Internet Access Program.** – There shall be established the Internet Access
10 Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program, in all public schools and State Universities
11 and Colleges (SUCs) throughout the country. The Department of Information and
12 Communications Technology (DICT) shall formulate, establish and maintain the Program to
13 provide internet access to students, faculty members and other non-teaching personnel in
14 all public schools and SUCs and to ensure that the connectivity requirements are met in an
15 efficient and effective manner.
- 16 **SECTION 4. Objectives.** – The Program shall have the following objectives:
- 17 (a) Provide a network for reliable internet connection and access to students, faculty
18 members and non-teaching personnel in all public schools and SUCs, which shall
19 promote easy access to information and services relevant to education;
- 20 (b) Improve learning techniques through cost-efficient and productivity-enhancing
21 methods with the use of the internet;

- 1 (c) Modernize the delivery of information to the students through the use and
2 application of information and communications technology;
3
4 (d) Upgrade the capabilities of all public schools and SUCs relevant to valuable
5 educational materials;
6
7 (e) Make all public schools and SUCs technologically competitive and at par with other
educational institutions around the world.

8 **SECTION 5. Program Director. –**
9

- 10 (a) Public Schools in the Basic Education Level - The Department of Education shall
11 appoint a Program Director for each Division School Office (DSO) to serve as the lead
12 person in charge of all activities necessary for the determination, implementation,
13 and management of the Program in the public schools under the DSO's jurisdiction.
14
15 (b) State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) - Each SUC shall appoint a Program Director to
16 serve as the lead person in charge of all activities necessary for the determination,
17 implementation, and management of the Program in the university or college.
18
19 (c) The designated Program Directors must have relevant knowledge and experience in
20 the field of information and communications technology, particularly on wireless
21 internet access.

22 **SECTION 6. Duties and Functions. –** The Program Director shall exercise the following duties
23 and functions:

- 24 (a) Execute and administer the plans and projects for the realization of the objectives
25 set forth in this Act;
26
27 (b) Direct and supervise the operation and internal administration of the Program and,
28 for this purpose, delegate some of the powers and duties to appropriate subordinate
personnel;
29
30 (c) Select and, in coordination with their respective public schools and the Department
31 of Budget and Management (DBM), fix the number and compensation of personnel
32 necessary to implement the provisions of this Act, subject to civil service laws, rules
and regulations;
33
34 (d) Receive donations, grants or any form of aid from local or foreign donors relative to
35 the program, ensure that said donations, grants or aids are used for their intended
purpose, make a report and submit the same to the proper school authorities;
36
37 (e) Coordinate closely with the DICT regarding the training of necessary personnel,
38 improvement of the program design and other related matters that requires the
expertise of DICT; and

1 (f) Perform such other duties and functions that are proper or necessary to carry out
2 the purpose of this Act.

3 **SECTION 7. Access.** – All students, faculty members and non-teaching personnel of all public
4 schools and SUCs in the country shall be allowed access to internet connection within the
5 premises of their respective campuses. For purposes of securing from unauthorized use of
6 the free internet connection, restrictions with regard to its use shall be imposed in the form
7 of passwords and other similar mechanisms, which shall be readily provided to the student,
8 faculty member or non-teaching personnel upon request.

9 **SECTION 8. Places of Access.** – Access to the internet shall be ensured at common areas
10 such as, but not limited to, classrooms, libraries, auditoriums, main lobbies, student
11 lounges, and faculty and administrative offices of each distinct and separate publicly
12 accessible building within the premises of the school.

13 **SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from the
14 effectivity of this Act, DICT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
15 effective implementation of this Act.

16 **SECTION 10. Separability Clause.** – Should any provision herein be declared
17 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

18 **SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other
19 issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
20 modified accordingly.

21 **SECTION 12. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the
22 Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

23 *Approved,*