

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1249

Introduced by HONORABLE LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Much has been accomplished to incorporate digital technology into public schools throughout the Philippines. From providing personal computers in order to promote and support computer literacy, the State is henceforth progressing towards the use of Information and Communications Technology and its various components in order to upgrade and modernize the educational system, to enhance the quality of education and to achieve equity in the acquisition of skills among all students.

There is therefore a need to address the varying number, age, accessibility to and use of computers and other technology in different districts and schools. Much remains to be done including a systematic upgrading and replacing of outdated digital technology, providing the professional development needed to enable educators to use such digital technology more effectively in the classroom and providing the technical and informational support to maintain and enhance the prevailing systems.

Laying down the foundation for the effective institutionalization of the use of digital technology in public education has never been more important and necessary. For example, efficient resource mobilization and funding generation is key to the management of the costs of purchasing, maintaining, upgrading and replacing digital technology that is ever evolving. Consequently, spending limited and finite government resources in attempting to maintain old, outdated technology may not be aligned with the principles of effective and prudent utilization of government finances.

The institutionalization of the use of digital technology in public education goes beyond the systematic provision of technical and infrastructure

requirements; It would pave the way for the successful establishment and management of user centered knowledge and information resources for teachers and the students, the development of digital learning materials for use inside and outside of classrooms, the continuous advancement of teachers and school administrator's knowledge and skills on technology through professional trainings, development and competency assessment, among others.

The foregoing premises considered, the expeditious approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



LUIS RAYMUND F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1249

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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN
THE PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title- This Act shall be known as the Institutionalization of Digital Technology in Public Education Act of 2016.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the declared policy of the State to provide quality education for all its citizens. Consequently, it is the policy of the State to promote the adaptation of digital technology from all sources for the national benefit and encourage the widest participation of private groups, local governments, and community-based organizations in the generation and utilization of the broader spheres of science and technology.

For this purpose, the State shall create a system that will promote and regulate the use of digital technology in public education.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) "information and Communications Technology" or "ICE" shall mean the totality of electronic means to collect, store, process and present information to end-users in support of their activities and services. It includes, but is not limited to, computer systems, office systems and consumer electronics, as well as networked information infrastructure, the components of which include telephone, cable, wireless and satellite systems, the Internet, fax machines and computers;
- (b) "Digital technology" shall mean electronic technology that generates, stores, and processes data in such a manner that content may be created, viewed, distributed, modified, and preserved on digital electronic devices;

- (c) "DepEd" shall mean the Department of Education;
- (d) "DICT" shall mean the Department of Information and Communications Technology;
- (e) "DOST" shall mean the Department of Science and Technology;
- (f) "CHED" shall mean the Commission on Higher Education; and
- (g) "Blended Learning" shall mean education program in which a student learns at least in part through delivery of content and instruction via digital and online media with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.

SECTION 4. Digital Technology Road Map for Public Schools - The DepEd, shall, in consultation and in coordination with DICT, DOST and CHED, formulate a road map for the use of digital technology in public education within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act. The road map shall serve as basis for planning, research and development, and monitoring of activities.

It shall be formulated based on the existing strategic plans, current and future capacities and the potential for adopting the emerging digital technologies, in accordance with the national development goals. The Technology Road Map for Public Schools shall include the following objectives:

- (a) Broadening and maximizing the use of digital technology to aid learning in a rapidly changing and increasingly globalized environment;
- (b) Establishing as system of upgrading and replacing outdated technology and providing technical support to maintain the systems.
- (c) Providing sufficient training and support for teachers and students in the use of digital technology in public education; and
- (d) Providing the professional development to enable educators to use digital technology more effectively in the classroom.

The road map shall be reviewed every five (5) years, or as may be deemed necessary.

SECTION 5. Programs. The Digital Technology Road Map shall include, but not limited to, the following programs:

- A. Adequate Digital Technology Resources. Access to computers with a variety of software shall be ensured in order to reinforce the skills and concepts that are being taught in the classroom as well as assistance in choosing appropriate software for their subject and grade level.

B. Systematic Computer Replacement Schedule. A computer replacement schedule shall be instituted to ensure that computers are consistently being upgraded and old equipment are timely disposed.

C. Maintenance. Technical support shall be provided in order to fix technical problems. Teachers and students shall receive instruction to do simple maintenance and troubleshooting.

D. Equipment Inventory. An annual equipment inventory shall be conducted to obtain data necessary to determine costs.

E. Appropriate Professional Development. Professional development opportunities shall be provided for teachers based on their needs. Training opportunities in a variety of times, locations and delivery modes shall likewise be provided.

F. Blended and Collaborative Learning. The digital technology road map will apply a blended learning where students will learn through a combination of different delivery methods of teaching that includes traditional classroom learning and digital technology-enhanced learning such as learning online for optimum teaching and learning from among the students and the teachers.

G. Development of Digital Materials. Digital materials for use in the classrooms shall be developed and made available to all public elementary, secondary schools nationwide.

H. Curriculum Development. DepEd shall undertake to implement the digitization of curriculum content and the creation of ready-to-use and customizable LCT-based resources.

SECTION 6. Annual Report. The Secretary of Education shall submit to both Houses of Congress, or upon the request of the Congressional Oversight Committee, a report giving a detailed account of the status of the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7 - Authority to Receive Donations or Grants. DepEd is authorized to accept grants, contributions, donations, endowments, bequests, or gifts in cash, or in kind from local and foreign sources in support of the development and implementation of this Act. The proceeds of such grants, contributions, donations, endowments, bequests, or gifts in cash, or in kind shall be used to finance the following:

- a) Research, development and utilization of emerging digital technologies;
- b) Improvement of ICT infrastructure including hardware and Internet connectivity;
- c) Training and capacity building; and
- d) Conduct of such other activities reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. The amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (PhP5000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated as the initial operating fund. Thereafter, such amount necessary to effectively carry out provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, DepEd shall, with DOST, CHED and DICT, prepare and promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out provisions of this Act.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,