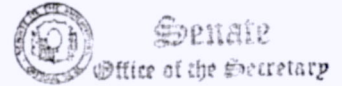


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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SENATE
S. No. 1757

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN "ADOPT-A-LIBRARY" PROGRAM, PROVIDING
INCENTIVES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Explanatory Note

Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall "protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels." This Constitutional provision does not only encompass the formal education system, but also "non-formal" educational system. This is embodied in Section 5 of the same Article, which provides that "[the State shall] encourage non-formal, informal, and indigenous learning systems, as well as self-learning, independent, and out-of-school study programs particularly those that respond to community needs."

This recognition of non-formal types of education is recognized in R.A. No. 9155, or the *Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001* which provides in its Declaration of Policy that "Education shall also include alternative learning systems for out-of-school youth and adult learners." R.A. No. 9155 defines "alternative learning system" as "a parallel learning system to provide a viable alternative to the existing formal education instruction. It encompasses both the non-formal and informal sources of knowledge and skills"

In recent years, the Philippines has started to embrace alternative modes of education. For example, Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Leonor Briones stated that expanding the alternative learning system (ALS) would be one of her main advocacies during her tenure.

This measure seeks to ride this recent wave of reforms by introducing an "*Adopt-a-Library*" program. It aims to encourage self-learning by constructing libraries across different local government units, public elementary and secondary schools, and State Universities and Colleges. These libraries will be provided with educational materials such as but not limited to encyclopaedias, dictionaries, maps and globes. The libraries shall also be provided with at least five (5) computers and a working internet connection.

This measure seeks to fully utilize the efficiency of the private sector in constructing these libraries. Private entities shall be encouraged to sign memoranda of agreement (MOA) with the concerned authorities to construct and maintain libraries. In exchange, all expenses made for the construction of libraries and provision of educational materials and equipment under this Act shall be exempt from the donor's tax. Furthermore, the adopting company or enterprise shall be entitled to have its name published beneath the name of the school after words indicating that the school is under the "Adopt-a-Library Program".

Speedy approval of this measure is eagerly sought.


GRACE POE