



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 616

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by Representative **GERALDINE B. ROMAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide the free use of computers with internet access in all public libraries in the Philippines, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 7743, entitled, "*An Act Providing For the Establishment of Congressional, City and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers Throughout the Philippines, Appropriating the Necessary Funds Therefore and For Other Purposes.*"

Republic Act No. 7743 was enacted to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people, elevate the literacy level of every Filipino and recognize the vital role of knowledge and information in nation-building.

At present, there are 688 public libraries in the country: four congressional district libraries; fifty two provincial libraries; ninety seven city libraries, and five hundred thirty five municipal libraries.

Public libraries are located in, established and maintained by the barangay, municipality, city, province, or congressional district that cater primarily to the information needs of their respective constituents through reading materials, reference books, and other informative documents. With the establishment of public libraries throughout the country, the government is helping the members of the community specially the students to broaden their research skills, enhance their reading ability and stimulate their desire for knowledge.

Although there are many informative materials available in public libraries, it is essential that free use of computers with internet access be provided to allow the students and the community to explore a wider array of information necessary for

quality education. This will encourage the entire community to take advantage of the political, social, economic, educational and even career opportunities made available through the internet.

The internet is a network of computers, designed to receive and send data in the form of e-mails, blogs and webcasts. It can be likened to a super-massive server armed with a plethora of information which is used by billions of people simultaneously. It is a virtual treasure trove of information. Accessing the internet becomes a common practice in seeking assistance to gather resources for homework, office presentation and supplements for other research work. It has a major effect on education and has played an important role in the advancement of mankind.

Public libraries, if properly equipped and managed, can be the most economical and effective source of information that will enhance and promote moral and intellectual well-being.

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


GERALDINE B. ROMAN



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE FREE USE OF COMPUTERS WITH
INTERNET ACCESS IN ALL PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE
PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 7743, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY AND
MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS
THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING THE
NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7743 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. Functions of the Public Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers. – The public libraries and barangay reading centers shall have the following functions:

- a) T[t]o make available to the members of the community FREE USE OF COMPUTERS WITH INTERNET ACCESS, reading materials of wide array, including reading materials

prescribed by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, and national newspapers of general circulation and others;

b) T[t]o be used as a venue for audio-visual presentation in the community and other kinds of exhibitions and activities aimed at increasing the literacy rate by government agencies, non-governmental organizations or private entities in the dissemination of information of general interest; and

c) T[t]o offer such other related services in furtherance of this Act. ”

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,