

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2675



Introduced by Representative Hon. Christopher “Toff” V.P. De Venecia

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ‘ONE TABLET, ONE STUDENT’ PROGRAM FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AND STUDENTS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a major shift in the educational system – that from a physical to a digital or blended style. Majority of our schools today, to adjust, utilize distance learning or online learning in delivering their lessons or modules. This would necessitate the need for the learner to have access to a stable internet connection, and to a gadget that would have the capacity to handle long video calls, or multiple files. This exposed the socio-economic divide, and made school requirements even more challenging to our learners, especially those who could not afford the minimum requirements for a learning gadget. In the pandemic alone, the number of out-of-school youth rose at the onset of the pandemic from 16.9 percent in January 2020 to 25.2 percent three months later in April 2020, based on a study released by the US Agency for International Development in November 2021. One of the main reasons was, in fact, the financial capacity to meet the minimum learning gadget requirements.

The Department of Education has estimated that there are around 27 million elementary and high school students enrolled in the last academic year, while the Commission on Higher Education estimates the number of students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges at 1.6 Million. Despite efforts of both the government and private sector to provide learning gadgets to our students, the gap is still insurmountable.

This bill, aims to provide assistance to students by giving them tablets, or similar learning devices, to help them cope with the current challenges in line with the national government’s thrust to provide quality education for all Filipino students.

Thus, support of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. CHRISTOPHER “TOFF” V.P. DE VENECIA
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “One Tablet, One Student Act of 2022”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The Constitution mandates that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels. Further, the State also recognizes that science and technology are essential for national development and progress.

To this end, the State shall make appropriate measures to make accessible technology accessible to the Filipino learners, especially amidst blended learning mechanisms brought about by physical restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEC. 3. One Tablet, One Student Program. - The One Tablet, One Student program is hereby established to provide every public elementary and secondary student, as well as every student enrolled in State Universities and Colleges a tablet computer (“tablet”) to allow students to participate in digital and online learning. *Provided*, that in case a student has their own tablet or similar online learning gadget, assistance in the form of internet allowance to cover the connectivity shall be provided.

SEC. 4. Implementing Agencies. The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) are hereby tasked to implement the One Tablet, One Student Program and shall:

- (a) Develop a comprehensive system to determine the eligibility of qualified students;
- (b) Develop an efficient and expeditious procurement and distribution system; and
- (c) Formulate guidelines on usage, maintenance, and accountability for the tablet.

SEC. 5. Appropriations. - An amount of Two Hundred Billion Pesos (Php200,000,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated in the succeeding General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DepEd and CHED, in coordination with the local government units through the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Information and Communications Technology, shall promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation, not later than thirty (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act. The DepEd and CHED shall publish such rules and regulations once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 7. Reportorial Requirement. The DepEd and CHED shall submit a report on the implementation of this Act to the Senate Committees on Basic Education, and Higher, Technical, and Vocational Education, and to the House Committees on Basic Education and Culture, and Higher and Technical Education, not later than the 30th of April, yearly.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,