

'22 JUL 13 P2:11

SENATE
S. No. 516

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE IN TECHNOLOGY
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the movement of the education sector towards one that is assisted, if not heavily reliant, on information and communications technology (ICT). Because of restrictions in mobility and ban on public gatherings, students and teachers alike resorted to use of electronic gadgets and videoconference applications to conduct and attend classes. Steady internet connection was needed to allow pupils to participate in virtual discussions and to submit their academic requirements. Brick and mortar libraries and textbooks were replaced by digital versions.

The current implementation of blended learning is far from ideal, given the ICT landscape of the country. Nevertheless, it presented the immense promise of utilizing technological innovations in upgrading the delivery of the public education system. The use of technology can greatly enhance the learning experience through instructional videos, accessible e-books and interactive instructional materials. Virtual classrooms can also host a larger number of students compared to the usual face-to-face classes, which address backlog in physical infrastructure, especially in remote barrios and geographically isolated areas. Integration of electronic devices and cyberspace into the learning environment further equips the learners with the needed training, values, and competencies for the jobs of the future.

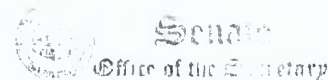
This proposed legislation envisions a transformation in the public education system that facilitates the development of our students and readies the country's future workforce to the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It strives to build on the gains, with respect to optimization of ICT, achieved during the age of the New Normal, and to sustain the innovations and level of modernization that upholds the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and making such education accessible to all.

This bill was already approved on Third and Final Reading by the House of Representatives during the Eighteenth Congress and was referred to the Senate Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, and Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking.

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


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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



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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 "*Public Schools of the*
2 *Future in Technology (PSOFT) Act.*"

3 **ARTICLE I**

4 **POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES**

5 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Cognizant of the necessity of adopting innovative
6 technologies to attain development in more positive and transformative ways, the
7 State shall:

- 8 a) Uphold the constitutional mandate to accord the highest priority to quality
9 education by providing appropriate mechanisms and resources to ensure
10 the enjoyment of quality education and services by all Filipino students,
11 regardless of social and economic status;
- 12 b) Harness technological innovations, approaches, and instruments in the
13 teaching and learning processes that would enhance the performance of
14 students and teachers;
- 15 c) Provide all learners with the opportunity to enhance individual capabilities
16 and knowledge through information and communications technology (ICT);

- 1 d) Create a system that shall promote and regulate the use of digital
2 technology in public education;
- 3 e) Enhance the learning experience of students by providing them access to
4 digitized copies of necessary reference materials and digital and online
5 content through the use of ICT and other related technologies for the
6 advancement of education in the country;
- 7 f) Provide an accessible complementary mode of learning to allow students to
8 continue their education during national health emergencies;
- 9 g) Encourage the wider participation of private groups, local government units
10 (LGUs) and community-based organizations in content generation and the
11 utilization of the broader sphere of science and technology; and
- 12 h) Promote public and private partnership in improving access to quality
13 education and lifelong learning.

14 *Sec. 3. Objectives.* – This Act shall pursue the following objectives:

- 15 a) Establish an Inter-agency Task Force to craft and implement the road map
16 for the PSOFT;
- 17 b) Institutionalize a program for the integration of digital technology and
18 innovation in public basic education through the PSOFT Road Map;
- 19 c) Identify key components of the PSOFT Road Map; and
- 20 d) Provide a public-private partnership (PPP) mechanism to facilitate the
21 attainment of the objectives of the PSOFT Road Map.

22 **ARTICLE II**

23 **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

24 *Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- 25 a) *Fourth Industrial Revolution* – refers to the ongoing automation of
26 traditional manufacturing and industrial practices using modern smart
27 technology by integrating advances in large-scale machine-to-machine
28 communication, artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, the Internet of
29 Things, and other technologies for increased automation, improved
30 communication and self-monitoring, and production of smart machines that
31 can analyze and diagnose issues without the need for human intervention;

- 1 b) *High Touch, High Tech Framework* – refers to a policy framework supported
2 by the United Nations Education Commission that espouses the need for
3 educators to find a balance between the more modern electronically-
4 delivered and digitally-supported method of teaching and the traditional
5 face-to-face mode, the latter being teaching methods that are founded on
6 a teacher’s capability to identify develop, and improve an individual
7 student’s academic weakness;
- 8 c) *Internet safety policy* – refers to an age-appropriate, research-based policy
9 that regulates the safe, ethical and responsible use of the Internet in public
10 education, promotes an informed and critical understanding of the Internet,
11 and the education of children and communities about how to prevent or
12 respond to problems or dangers related to the Internet and new media; and
- 13 d) *New media* – refers to emerging digital, computerized, or network
14 information and communications technologies that often have interactive
15 capacities, which includes e-mail, instant messaging, text messaging, web
16 sites, interactive gaming, social media, cellphones and mobile devices.

17 **ARTICLE III**

18 **PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE IN TECHNOLOGY**

19 *Sec. 5. Public Schools of the Future in Technology (PSOFT).* – There is hereby
20 instituted a PSOFT in all public elementary and secondary schools.

21 The PSOFT shall adopt the following principles upon administering basic
22 education in the public school system:

- 23 a) Broaden and maximize the use of ICT to aid learning;
24 b) Establish a system of upgrading and replacing outdated technology;
25 c) Provide technical support to maintain ICT and other technology;
26 d) Train and support teachers and students on ICT and other technology’
27 e) Develop educators to use ICT effectively in the classroom;
28 f) Ensure that the balance between modern and traditional methods of
29 teaching are equally utilized to obtain optimum learning outcomes.

30 *Sec. 6. Creation of the PSOFT Inter-Agency Task Force (PSOFT-IATF).* – There
31 is hereby created the PSOFT-IATF.

1 The PSOFT-IATF shall, in consultation with concerned non-government entities,
2 including private companies, non-profit organizations, and private educational
3 institutions, develop the PSOFT Road Map, a consolidation of development plans,
4 programs and projects to be implemented by various departments and agencies of
5 the national government for the purpose of advancing digital technology and
6 innovation in public basic education.

7 The PSOFT-IATF shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of
8 Education (DepEd) as Chairperson and the following as members: (1) Secretary of the
9 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT); (2) Secretary of
10 the Department of Science and Technology (DOST); (3) Secretary of the National
11 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA); (4) Secretary of the Department of
12 Budget and Management (DBM); and (5) Director General of the Philippine Space
13 Agency (PhilSA).

14 The PSOFT-IATF shall finalize the PSOFT Road Map within twelve (12) months
15 from the effectivity of this Act, in accordance with national development goals. The
16 PSOFT Road Map shall be incorporated in the Philippine Development Plan.

17 Subject to the approval of the DBM, the DepEd, DICT, and PhilSA may create
18 positions as they deem necessary for the effective implementation of this Act, in
19 accordance with civil service laws, rules and regulations.

20 The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall formulate a
21 program extending assistance to marginalized and disadvantaged students to ensure
22 that they may fully participate in the PSOFT Road Map.

23 *Sec. 7. PSOFT Road Map.* – The PSOFT Road Map shall serve as the basis for
24 programs and projects aimed at improving the quality of education through the use
25 of digital technology.

26 The PSOFT Road Map shall be subject to review and amendment, if necessary,
27 every three (3) years.

28 *Sec. 8. Components of the Road Map.* – The PSOFT Road Map shall include the
29 following:

30 a) Physical and Technological Infrastructure

31 1) Universal Access to Internet for Public Schools

32 2) Annual Investment Program for ICT Devices, Tools and Equipment

- 1 b) Enhanced Digital Education Program
- 2 1) National Human Resource Development
- 3 2) Training and Development of DepEd personnel
- 4 c) Digital Reforms in Public School Administration
- 5 1) Internet Safety Policy
- 6 2) Strengthening the Enhanced Basic Education Information System
- 7 (EBEIS)
- 8 3) Digital Alternative Learning System (ALS)
- 9 d) Development of Online Learning Portals
- 10 1) DepEd E-Learning Resources
- 11 2) Public Online Library

12 **ARTICLE IV**

13 **PHYSICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

14 *Sec. 9. Universal Access to the Internet in Public Schools.* – All public basic
15 education schools shall be provided access to the Internet for the purpose of reducing
16 the disparity in computing and information technology knowledge among public school
17 learners and raising the standards of Philippine education.

18 In addition to traditional means of accessing the Internet, such as commercially
19 available connections or existing land-based initiatives of government programs to
20 expand access to the Internet, the PSOFT Road Map shall exhaust all options in
21 ensuring internet connectivity for all public schools.

22 In order to provide the remote areas with digital connectivity, the PSOFT Road
23 Map shall provide cost-effective options of establishing a telecommunication satellite
24 or installing fiber optic technology infrastructure as part of the National Government
25 Program under the DICT, DOST and PhilSA.

26 The necessary funding for the conduct of studies to determine the feasibility of
27 implementing a Telecommunication Satellite Program, through building, purchase, or
28 lease of a satellite, shall be appropriated in accordance with the PSOFT Road Map.

29 *Sec. 10. ICT Devices, Tools and Equipment.* – The DepEd shall provide the
30 following equipment and services in all public elementary and secondary schools:
31 personal computers (PCs), laptops, tablets, learning devices, digital classroom
32 equipment and internet and hybrid intranet connectivity.

1 The PSOFT Road Map shall include a plan for the procurement of PCs, laptops
2 or tablets for the educational needs of all elementary and secondary public schools.
3 All learners will be provided with the necessary learning devices as stipulated in the
4 PSOFT Road Map. Should budgetary constraints prevent the attainment of such target,
5 the national government shall endeavour to meet a ratio of one (1) device for every
6 two (2) learners from Grades 4-6 to ensure that learners can make use of productivity
7 tools in the conduct of regular classes. The national government shall also maintain
8 one (1) device for every fifteen (15) learners from Grades 7-12 to ensure that learners
9 can avail of weekly classes on ICT topics that require higher computing power.

10 The PSOFT Road Map shall provide for the establishment of functional digital
11 classrooms in all public schools. Digital classrooms shall be equipped with digital
12 boards, computers, wireless router, multimedia projector, printer, and other necessary
13 tools and devices.

14 The PSOFT Road Map shall likewise provide for stable and reliable internet and
15 hybrid intranet connectivity. Educators in public schools shall make use of ICT and
16 hybrid intranet connectivity as presentation tools to complement traditional teaching
17 methods. The DepEd, with the technical assistance of DICT, shall develop an
18 administrative system in all public schools utilizing hybrid intranet connectivity in order
19 to enhance organizational management and administration, and streamline front office
20 procedures.

21 Sec. 11. *PSOFT Pilot Schools.* – The national government shall establish PSOFT
22 pilot schools in the academic year following the effectivity of this Act. The pilot schools
23 shall be located in Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and shall fully comply
24 with the requirements of Article IV in this Act, as follows:

- 25 a) The pilot school shall have full, unrestricted access to the internet and for
26 this purpose shall be equipped with wireless technology or such other
27 modes of connectivity that may be developed: Provided, That school
28 administrators shall closely supervise the access of learners to content in
29 order to protect them from inappropriate, violent, or immoral material;
- 30 b) Teachers shall be adequately trained in all technologies that the pilot schools
31 shall adopt for the use of learners;

- 1 c) All pilot schools shall employ trained information technology specialists to
2 assist faculty and learners; and
3 d) All pilot schools shall provide each teacher and learner with the appropriate
4 ICT devices, tools and equipment to ensure optimum satisfaction in both
5 the teaching and learning experiences.

6 The DepEd shall, in coordination with NEDA, conduct an impact study of the
7 pilot schools to determine its potential in improving the quality of education. Additional
8 pilot schools may be established in the following years, subject to the availability of
9 funds and through cooperative arrangements with LGUs and the public sector.

10 **ARTICLE V**

11 **ENHANCED DIGITAL EDUCATION**

12 Sec. 12. *National Human Resource Development.* – Students in public
13 elementary and secondary schools must be prepared for the disruptive technologies
14 that come with the Fourth Industrial Revolution and have a significant impact on skills
15 requirements and on creating a range of opportunities for them in the future.

16 To better equip students to overcome the challenges enabled by ever-
17 increasing technological change and to improve student engagement and
18 achievement, they shall be provided with introductory courses on foundational
19 technology that will enhance their future competencies. The DepEd shall determine
20 the content and mode of delivery of such foundational technology courses and shall
21 introduce them in the curriculum in the school year following the effectivity of this Act.

22 To allow students to acquire the appropriate aptitudes and competencies on
23 these courses, the PSOFT Road Map shall provide for the establishment of innovation
24 hubs in every school to enable students to hone their skills and techniques using a
25 wide variety of physical and digital tools and equipment. The innovation hubs shall
26 allow teachers and learners to carry out technology-based projects that address local
27 problems in the community.

28 In addition to the standard ICT curriculum taught for basic education in the
29 public schools, the DepEd shall endeavour to include the following subject matters in
30 its curriculum:

- 31 a) Respecting and protecting personal information on the Internet;
32 b) Understanding computer security systems;

- 1 c) Online gender sensitivity;
- 2 d) Proper use of social media and social networking;
- 3 e) Responsible and ethical use of the Internet, photographic equipment, smart
- 4 phones, and other equipment of similar nature; and
- 5 f) Insights of Republic Act No. 10175 or the "Cybercrime Prevention Act" and
- 6 other related legislation.

7 The DepEd shall, in coordination with the DICT, enjoin the use of the latter's
8 ICT Literacy Competency and Development Bureau and its relevant specialized ICT
9 subjects to be utilized as elective courses in Grades 11-12.

10 *Sec. 13. Training and Development of DepEd Personnel.* – The PSOFT Road
11 Map shall determine the training and development needs of school administrators,
12 teachers, and personnel with respect to ICT.

13 To ensure that teachers are technologically knowledgeable and well-equipped
14 with the right aptitudes and competencies, the DepEd shall establish an Education
15 Technology Division that shall implement teaching programs and utilize technology-
16 based instruction aids for the effective and efficient performance of teachers under
17 the PSOFT Road Map. The DICT shall extend its support in the implementation of
18 training for teachers on ICT, through its ICT Literacy Competency and Development
19 Bureau.

20 The National Educators Academy of the Philippines shall carry out training
21 programs for educators in public schools and integrate ICT in classroom learning and
22 instruction to highlight the professional and educational benefits that may be derived
23 from personally investing in ICT.

24 **ARTICLE VI**

25 **DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE LEARNING PORTALS**

26 *Sec. 14. DepEd E-Learning Resources.* – The DepEd shall develop an online
27 portal that provides access or links to Internet learning resources. The online portal
28 shall include the following: e-books and videos, learning materials and teachers
29 guides, materials for senior high school subjects ranging from math, disaster
30 readiness, and science, materials on science, agriculture, livelihood and information
31 technology, interactive exercises on math, science, history and economics.

1 The DepEd shall develop its own library to ensure the quality and safety of
2 knowledge and information made available to learners.

3 Sec. 15. *Public Online Library.* – The PSOFT Road Map shall include the
4 establishment of the Public Online Library.

5 The DepEd, DICT, DOST, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and
6 the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shall, in
7 partnership with the National Library of the Philippines (NLP), the National Book
8 Development Board (NBDB), and other concerned government agencies, develop and
9 main the Public Online Library, a repository of educational materials and digitized
10 copies of books and publications suitable for Filipino students and researchers that
11 shall enrich the learning experience by complementing the textbooks and reference
12 materials prescribed for the elementary and secondary levels. The Public Online
13 Library shall be directly connected to the website of the Philippine Statistics Authority
14 (PSA). The DepEd and the NLP shall have joint custody over the digitized copies of
15 textbooks and references in the Public Online Library which shall be jointly managed
16 by the DepEd and the DICT. In this regard, the DICT shall ensure the security of the
17 online repository system to guarantee its integrity.

18 The DepEd may solicit additional reference materials and publications from the
19 NLP, other agencies of the government, and the private sector to augment its
20 resources.

21 The authors of the digitized books and publications shall be strictly covered by
22 the protection provided for in Republic Act No. 8293, as amended, otherwise known
23 as the “Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.” The DepEd and all concerned
24 agencies shall ensure that the authors of the digitized books and publications shall be
25 properly remunerated in accordance with law.

26 **ARTICLE VII**

27 **DIGITAL REFORM IN PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

28 Sec. 16. *Internet Safety Policy.* – To advance the objective of providing a safe
29 and secured education program under the PSOFT Road Map, the DepEd shall, within
30 six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, formulate and enforce an internet safety
31 in order to regulate students’ access to content especially against visual depictions

1 that are obscene, pornographic and harmful to minors. In this regard, the internet
2 safety policy shall be implemented to accomplish the following objectives:

- 3 a) Development and implementation of Internet safety education, including
4 safe access to educational technology, multimedia and interactive
5 applications, and online resources;
- 6 b) Development of online risk interventions for learners and children;
- 7 c) Training and support to stakeholders on peer-driven Internet safety
8 educations initiatives;
- 9 d) Undertaking of researches on online risks to form the bases for Internet
10 safety education syllabi and instructional material development;
- 11 e) Development and implementation of a public education campaign to
12 promote awareness of online risks to learners and children; and
- 13 f) Education of parents to augment school initiatives on safe Internet use.

14 *Sec. 17. Strengthening the Enhanced Basic Education Information System*
15 *(EBEIS).* – The EBEIS shall be the central school database of the DepEd which shall
16 contain pertinent personal data and school records of students. It shall be continually
17 improved to ensure the efficient management of school records.

18 School administrators and personnel shall be trained on the operation and
19 access of the EBEIS and be given access to student records and other related data in
20 the EBEIS such as student’s school attendance record, records pertaining to the
21 character of a student, the level of the student’s digital literacy and proficiency, grade
22 level, examination scores, school performance, immunization and health records,
23 among others, for purposes of recording student biographical data, handling
24 admissions and discharges, and transferring to other schools.

25 Any person who is caught illegally altering, falsifying or misusing student
26 information in the EBEIS shall be sanctioned in accordance with R.A. 10173, otherwise
27 known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012.”

28 *Sec. 18. Digital Alternative Learning System.* – The DepEd shall institute a
29 digital format of the ALS in the PSOFT Road Map. To attain this objective, the DepEd
30 shall provide professional training to teachers and non-teaching personnel involved in
31 this program and formulate the necessary guidelines for its implementation.

32

1 **ARTICLE VII**

2 **PARTNERSHIP MECHANISM AND ROLES OF PARTNERS**

3 *Sec. 19. Partnership Mechanism and Roles of Partners.* – In the furtherance of
4 the PSOFT Road Map, the DepEd may coordinate and enter into an agreement or
5 contract with other government agencies, LGUs, private and non-profit agencies,
6 institutions or organizations duly accredited or recognized by the government, civil
7 society, business and industrial sector, and other concerned sectors.

8 The PSOFT Road Map shall define and delineate the areas of responsibility of
9 government agencies in conformity with their respective charters and mandates. For
10 purposes of this Act, these agencies shall have the following roles:

- 11 a) The DepEd shall be the lead government agency responsible for the proper
12 and effective implementation of the various provisions of this Act and ensure
13 coordination and collaboration among agencies of the government;
- 14 b) The DICT shall provide advice on matters relating to ICT and closely
15 coordinate and collaborate in the implementation of this Act. It shall
16 undertake the installation, maintenance, and operation of hybrid intranet
17 connectivity in all public basic education schools, provide an efficient and
18 reliable broadband connection, assist in the implementation of training and
19 development for teachers concerning ICT and ICT-assisted instructions, and
20 coordinate and collaborate in the provision of digital connectivity in public
21 schools.
- 22 c) The PhilSA shall advise and collaborate with DepEd on matters concerning
23 the use of space technology and relevant space-enabled services to
24 implement the provisions of this Act.
- 25 d) The DOST, CHED, TESDA, DILG, NLP, NBDB, PSA, the LGUs, and other
26 concerned government agencies mentioned in this Act shall provide support
27 and assistance for the attainment of the purposes of the PSOFT.

28 *Sec. 20. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for PSOFT.* – The DepEd may pursue
29 PPPs from any of the modalities under R.A. 6957, as amended by R.A. 7718, entitled,
30 “An Act Authorizing the Financing, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance of
31 Infrastructure Projects by the Private Sector, and For Other Purposes.”

1 To this end, the DepEd shall, in consultation with the PPP Center of the
2 Philippines created under Executive Order No. 9, series of 2010, entitled "Reorganizing
3 the Build-Operate and Transfer Center to the Public-Private Partnership Center of the
4 Philippines and Transferring its Attachment from the Department of Trade and
5 Industry to the National Economic and Development Authority and For Other
6 Purposes," establish a PPP Unit to coordinate all matters relating to PPP, in accordance
7 with the PSOFT Road Map. It shall likewise coordinate with the Project Development
8 and Monitoring Facility of the PPP Center in the conduct of feasibility studies and the
9 preparation of tender documents for the PPP projects of the DepEd.

10 **ARTICLE IX**

11 **AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE DONATIONS**

12 *Sec. 21. Authority to Receive Donations.* – The DepEd is authorized to accept
13 grants, contributions, donations, endowments, or bequests in cash or kind from local
14 and foreign sources in support of the development and implementation of this Act,
15 subject to the regular auditing guidelines and procedures: Provided, That in case of
16 donations from foreign sources, acceptance thereof shall be subject to existing
17 government rules and regulations. The proceeds of such grants, contributions,
18 donations, endowments, or bequests shall be used to finance the following:

- 19 a) Establishment of pilot schools as provided in Section 11 of this Act;
- 20 b) Research, development and utilization of emerging digital technologies;
- 21 c) Provisions of computer laptop units and improvement of ICT infrastructure,
22 including hardware and Internet connectivity;
- 23 d) Training and capacity building;
- 24 e) Conduct of other activities necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

25 **ARTICLE X**

26 **THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND** 27 **REPORTORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

28 *Sec. 22. Joint Congressional Oversight.* – Upon the effectivity of this Act, a Joint
29 Congressional Oversight Committee is hereby constituted. The Oversight Committee
30 shall be composed of ten (10) members with the Chairpersons of the Committee on
31 Basic Education, Arts and Culture and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, and
32 the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and the Committee on Appropriations

1 of the House of Representatives as members and three (3) additional members from
2 each House to be designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House
3 of Representatives, respectively. The members of the Committee from each House
4 shall have at least one (1) member from the minority party or coalition.

5 *Sec. 23. Annual Report.* – The DepEd shall submit to both Houses of Congress,
6 or upon the request by the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, a report giving
7 a detailed account of the status of the implementation of this Act.

8 **ARTICLE XI**

9 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

10 *Sec. 24. Appropriations.* – The Secretaries of Education and Information and
11 Communications Technology and the Director General of PhilSA shall immediately
12 include in their respective programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of
13 which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

14 The funding for the implementation of PSOFT Pilot Schools under Section 11
15 hereof shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of the DepEd.

16 *Sec. 25. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred twenty
17 (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and DICT shall, in coordination
18 with other concerned agencies of the government and the private stakeholders,
19 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
20 this Act.

21 *Sec. 26. Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
22 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
23 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

24 *Sec. 27. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
25 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
26 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
27 accordingly.

28 *Sec. 28. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,