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House Bill No. _____
(In substitution of House Bill numbered 311, 514, 1249, 1411, 2671, 3303, 3433, 3505,
4131, 4196, 4527, 4629, 4719, 5090, 5226, 5806, 6964, 7222, and 7380)

Introduced by Reqs. Salceda, Roman, Villafuerte, Vargas, Dy (F.M.C), Yap (V.), Santos-Recto, Silverio, Lacson, Olivarez, Dimaporo (A.), Dimaporo (M.K.), Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan, Martinez, Valeriano, Bordado, Rodriguez, Delos Santos, Gatchalian, Tutor, Villa, Ong, Romulo, Velasco, De Venecia, Go, Cuaresma, Castelo, Balindong, Acop, Acosta-Alba, Reyes (A.), Barba, Cari, Bautista-Bandigan, Bolilia, Castro, Elago, Loyola, Fortuno, Robes, Escudero, Abunda, Mariano-Hernandez, Violago, Dalog, Roque, Bañas-Nogralas, Vergara, Tiangco, Savellano, Garcia (J.E.), Espino, Tejada, Cabredo, Bascug, and Lazatin

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE IN TECHNOLOGY,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 Future in
2 Technology (PSOFT) Act”
3

4 **ARTICLE I**
5 **POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES**
6

7 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – The following are hereby declared the policies of the
8 State:
9

- 10 (a) Guarantee the highest priority to quality education by taking appropriate mechanism
11 towards inclusion of all Filipino students, regardless of social and economic status;
12 (b) Harness technological innovations, processes, and instruments in facilitating teaching and
13 learning processes that would enhance the performance of students and teachers;
14 (c) Provide the students the opportunity to enhance their individual capabilities and learning
15 experience through adapting the development in information and communications
16 technology (ICT);
17 (d) Create a system that should promote and regulate the use of digital technology in public
18 education;
19 (e) Enhance the learning experience of students by providing them access to digitized
20 copies of necessary reference materials and digital and online content programs through

- 1 the use of ICT and other related technologies for the advancement of education in the
2 country;
- 3 (f) Provide an accessible complementary mode of learning to allow students to
4 continue their education during national health emergencies;
- 5 (g) Encourage the wider participation of private groups, local governments, and community-
6 based organizations in the content generation and utilization of the broader spheres of
7 science and technology;
- 8 (h) Promote public and private partnership in improving access to quality education and
9 lifelong learning.

10
11 **Sec. 3. Objectives.** – This Act shall pursue the following objectives:

- 12
- 13 (a) Establish an Interagency Taskforce to craft and implement the road map for PSOFT;
- 14 (b) Institutionalize a program for the integration of digital technology and innovation in
15 public basic education through the PSOFT Road Map;
- 16 (c) Identify key components of the PSOFT Road Map; and
- 17 (d) Provide an expedient public-private partnership (PPP) mechanism to attain the objectives
18 under the PSOFT Road Map.

19

20 **ARTICLE II**

21 **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

22

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

- 24
- 25 (a) Disruptive Technology – refers to any enhance or completely new technology that
26 replaces, disrupts, and renders into obsolescence an existing technology;
- 27 (b) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) – refers to the totality of electronic
28 means to access, create, collect, store, process, receive, transmit, present and disseminate
29 information, as defined in Section 3(a) of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10844, otherwise
30 known as the “*Department of Information and Communication Technology Act of 2015*”;
- 31 (c) New media – refers to emerging digital, computerized, or network information and
32 communication technologies that often have interactive capacities, which includes, but
33 should not limited, to e-mail, instant messaging, text messaging, web sites, blogs,
34 interactive gaming, social media, cellphones, and mobile devices;
- 35 (d) Internet Safety Policy – refers to age-appropriate, research-based policy that regulates the
36 safe, ethical, and responsible use of the Internet in public education, promotes an informed
37 and critical understanding of the Internet, and educate children and communities about
38 how to prevent or respond to problems or dangers related to the Internet and new media;
39 and
- 40 (e) High Touch, High Tech - refers to a policy framework supported by the United Nations
41 Education Commission that espouses the need for educators to find a balance between
42 high-tech and high-touch methods of teaching. The latter being teaching methods that are
43 founded on a teacher’s capability to identify, develop, and improve an individual student’s
44 academic weakness.

45

46 **ARTICLE III**

47 **PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE FUTURE IN TECHNOLOGY ROAD MAP**

48

49 **Sec. 5. Creation of the PSOFT Inter-Agency Task Force.** – There is hereby created the
50 Public Schools of the Future in Technology Inter-Agency Task Force (PSOFT-IATF).

1
2 The PSOFT-IATF, in consultation with concerned non-government entities, including but
3 not limited to private companies, non-profit organizations, and private educational institutions,
4 shall develop the PSOFT Road Map, a consolidation of development plans, programs, and
5 projects to be implemented by various departments and agencies of the national government for
6 the purpose of advancing digital technology and innovation in public basic education.
7

8 The Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) shall be designated as Chairperson
9 of the PSOFT-IATF and the members shall be composed of, but not limited to, the (1) Secretary
10 of the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT), (2) Secretary of the
11 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), (3) Secretary of the National Economic and
12 Development Authority (NEDA), (4) Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management
13 (DBM), and (5) Philippine Space Agency.
14

15 The PSOFT-IATF shall finalize the PSOFT Road Map within twelve (12) months from
16 the effectivity of this Act, in accordance with the national development goals, and shall be
17 incorporated in the Philippine Development Plan.
18

19 Subject to the approval of the DBM, the DepEd, DICT, and PhilSA may create positions
20 as they deem necessary for the effective implementation of this Act, in accordance with Civil
21 Service laws, rules and regulations.
22

23 The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall formulate a program
24 extending assistance to the marginalized and the disadvantaged students to ensure that they may
25 fully participate in the PSOFT Road Map.
26

27 **Sec. 6. *PSOFT Road Map.*** – The PSOFT Road Map shall serve as the basis for programs
28 and projects aimed at improving the quality of education through the use of digital technology.
29

30 The PSOFT Road Map shall be subject to review and amendment every three (3) years.
31

32 **Sec. 7. *Components of the Roadmap.*** – The PSOFT Road Map shall include, but not
33 limited to, the following:
34

35 (a) Physical and Technological Infrastructure
36

- 37 (1) Universal Access to Internet for Public Schools
38 (2) Public Schools of the Future with Technology
39 (3) Annual Investment Program for ICT Devices, Tools, and Equipment
40

41 (b) Enhanced Digital Education Program
42

- 43 (1) National Human Resource Development
44 (2) Training and Development of DepEd personnel
45

46 (c) Digital Reforms in Public School Administration
47

- 48 (1) Internet Safety Policy
49 (2) Strengthening the Enhanced Basic Education Information System (EBEIS)
50 (3) Digital Alternative Learning System (ALS)

1
2 (d) Development of Online Learning Portals
3

- 4 (1) DepEd E-Learning Resources
5 (2) Public Online Library
6

7 **ARTICLE IV**
8 **PHYSICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**
9

10 **Sec. 8. *Universal Access to Internet for Public Schools.*** – All public basic education
11 schools shall be provided access to the internet for the purpose of reducing the digital divide
12 among DepEd learners and raising the standards of education in the country.
13

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

19 In order to provide the remote areas with digital connectivity, the PSOFT Road Map shall
20 outline cost-effective options of establishing a telecommunication satellite and/or fiber optics as
21 part of the National Government Program under the DICT, DOST, and PhilSA.
22

23 The necessary funding to determine the feasibility of a Telecommunication Satellite
24 Program through build, purchase, and/or lease shall be appropriated in accordance with the
25 PSOFT Road Map.
26

27 **Sec. 9. *Public Schools of the Future in Technology.*** – There is hereby instituted a Public
28 School of the Future in Technology in all public elementary and secondary schools.
29

30 The Public Schools of the Future in Technology shall adopt the following principles upon
31 administering basic education in the public school system:
32

- 33 (a) Broaden and maximize the use of ICT to aid learning;
34 (b) Establish a system of upgrading and replacing outdated technology;
35 (c) Provide technical support to maintain ICT and other technology;
36 (d) Train and support teachers and students on ICT and other technology;
37 (e) Develop educators to use ICT effectively in the classroom; and
38 (f) Ensure that the High Touch, High Tech paradigm will be utilized to keep students engaged
39 and learning outcomes optimal.
40

41 **Sec. 10. *ICT Devices, Tools, and Equipment.*** – The Department of Education shall
42 appropriate and provide the following in all public elementary and secondary schools: Personal
43 Computers (PCs)/Laptops/Tablets/Learning Devices, Digital Classroom equipment, and Internet
44 and Hybrid Intranet Connectivity.
45

46 The PSOFT Road Map shall program the procurement of PC/Laptops/Tablets for the
47 educational needs of all elementary and secondary public schools. All learners will be provided
48 with the necessary PC learning devices as stipulated in the PSOFT Road Map. Should budgetary
49 constraints prevent the attainment of such target, the national government shall endeavor to meet
50 a ratio of one (1) device for every six (6) learners from Grades 4-6 to ensure that learners can

1 make use of productivity tools in the conduct of regular classes. The national government shall
2 also maintain one (1) device for every fifteen (15) learners from Grades 7-12 to ensure that
3 learners can avail of weekly classes on ICT topics that require higher computing power.
4

5 All public schools have to be provided with functional digital classrooms in the PSOFT
6 Road Map. Digital Classrooms will be equipped with, but not limited to, digital boards, PC
7 devices, wireless router, multimedia projector, printer, and other needed tools and devices.
8

9 Internet and Hybrid Intranet Connectivity that is stable and reliable for all public schools
10 shall be included in the PSOFT Road Map. Educators in public schools shall make use of ICT
11 and hybrid Intranet connectivity as presentation tools to complement traditional teaching
12 methods. The DepEd, with the technical assistance of DICT, shall develop an administrative
13 system in all public schools utilizing hybrid Intranet connectivity in order to enhance
14 organizational management and administration, and streamline front office procedures.
15

16 **Sec. 11. PSOFT Pilot Schools.** – The National Government shall establish pilot schools
17 in the following academic year after ratification of this Act. The pilot schools will be located in
18 the regions of Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. They will showcase the full
19 implementation of Article IV in this Act as follows:
20

- 21 (a) The pilot school shall have full access to the internet and be WiFi ready;
- 22 (b) The principles found in Section 9 shall be strictly implemented; and
- 23 (c) ICT devices, tools, and equipment shall be complete with teachers and students enjoying
24 a 1:1 ratio for devices required for their teaching and learning needs.
25

26 The DepEd, in coordination with NEDA, shall conduct an impact study of the pilot
27 schools to determine its significance in improving the quality of education. Additional pilot
28 schools can be established in the following years, through the National Budget, Foreign Grants,
29 or in cooperation with Local Government Units, the Private Sector or both.
30

31 **ARTICLE V**

32 **ENHANCED DIGITAL EDUCATION**

33

34 **Sec. 12. National Human Resource Development.** – Students in public elementary and
35 secondary schools must be prepared with disruptive technologies that will come with the Fourth
36 Industrial Revolution and will have a significant impact on skills requirements and on creating a
37 range of opportunities for them in the future.
38

39 To better equip students to overcome the challenges enabled by ever-increasing
40 technological change and to improve student engagement and achievement, they shall be
41 provided with introductory courses on foundational technology that will advance their future
42 competencies in said field. The courses on foundational technology to be introduced in the
43 school curriculum shall be provided in the IRR of this Act.
44

45 To allow students to acquire the appropriate aptitudes and competencies on these courses,
46 the PSOFT Road Map shall provide for the establishment of Innovation Hubs in every school.
47 Innovation hubs will enable students to hone their skills and techniques using a wide variety of
48 physical and digital tools and equipment. The innovation hubs shall allow teachers and learners
49 to carry out technology-based projects that address local problems in the community.

1
2 In addition to the standard ICT curriculum taught for basic education in the public schools,
3 the Department of Education shall endeavor to include the following subject matters in its
4 curriculum:

- 5
6 (a) Respecting and protecting personal information on the Internet;
7 (b) Understanding computer security systems;
8 (c) Online gender sensitivity;
9 (d) Proper use of social media and social networking;
10 (e) Responsible and ethical use of the Internet, photographic equipment, smart phones, and
11 other equipment of similar nature; and
12 (f) Insights of the Cybercrime Prevention Act and other related legislation.

13
14 The DepEd, in coordination with the DICT, shall enjoin the use of the latter's ICT Literacy
15 Competency and Development Bureau and its relevant specialized ICT subjects to be utilized as
16 electives in Grades 11-12.

17
18 **Sec. 13. *Training and Development of DepEd Personnel.*** – The PSOFT Road Map shall
19 determine the training and development needs of school administrators, teachers, and personnel
20 on ICT.

21
22 To ensure that teachers are technologically knowledgeable and well-equipped with the
23 right aptitudes and competencies, the DepEd shall establish an Education Technology Division
24 that shall implement teaching programs and technology-based instruction aids for the effective
25 and efficient performance of teachers under the PSOFT Road Map. The DICT shall extend its
26 support in the implementation of training for teachers on ICT, through its ICT Literacy
27 Competency and Development Bureau.

28
29 The National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) shall carry out training for
30 educators in public schools to integrate ICT in classroom learning and instruction, to instill
31 professional and educational benefits of investing in ICT, and to develop a proficiency in
32 outsourcing appropriate resources for education.

33
34 **ARTICLE VI**
35 **DIGITAL REFORM IN PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

36
37 **Sec. 14. *Internet Safety Policy.*** – To advance a safe and secured education under the
38 PSOFT Road Map, the DepEd shall formulate and enforce a policy on internet safety for students
39 concerning access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, and harmful to minors,
40 within six months after the effectivity of this act. The Internet Safety Policy should include, but
41 not limited to, the following objectives:

- 42
43 (a) Identify, develop, and implement Internet safety education, including safe access to
44 educational technology, multimedia and interactive applications, and online resources;
45 (b) Develop online risk interventions for learners and children;
46 (c) Train and support peer-driven Internet safety education initiatives;
47 (d) Coordinate and fund research initiatives on Internet safety education and online risks to
48 learners and children;
49 (e) Develop and implement public education campaign to promote awareness of Internet
50 safety education and online risks to learners and children; and

1 (f) Educate parents on teaching their children the ethical and safer use of the Internet and
2 new media.
3

4 **Sec. 15. *Strengthening the Enhanced Basic Education Information System.*** – The
5 Enhanced Basic Education Information System (EBEIS) shall be the central school database of
6 the DepEd which contains pertinent information of students concerning their personal data and
7 school records. It shall be updated or strengthened for an efficient management of school
8 records.
9

10 School administrators and personnel shall be trained on the operation and access of the
11 EBEIS. They shall likewise be given access to the EBEIS concerning student records and other
12 related data, such as school attendance, good moral character, digital literacy, digital proficiency,
13 grade level, examinations scores, improvement tracking, and immunization and health record,
14 among others, for purposes of recording student biographical data, handling admissions and
15 discharges, and transferring to other schools.
16

17 Any person who is caught illegally altering, falsifying, or misusing student information
18 in the EBEIS shall be sanctioned with the penalty in accordance with R.A. 10173, otherwise
19 known as the “*Data Privacy Act of 2012.*”
20

21 **Sec. 16. *Digital Alternative Learning System.*** – The DepEd shall institute a digital format
22 of the Alternative Learning System in the PSOFT Road Map. To attain this objective, the DepEd
23 shall provide professional training to teachers and non-teaching personnel involved in this
24 program and formulate the necessary guidelines for its implementation.
25

26 **ARTICLE VII**

27 **DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE LEARNING PORTALS**

28

29 **Sec. 17. *DepEd E-Learning Resources.*** – The Department of Education shall develop an
30 online portal that provides access or links to Internet learning resources. The online portal shall
31 include, but not limited to, the following: e-books and videos, learning materials and teachers
32 guides, materials for senior high school subjects ranging from math, disaster readiness, and
33 science, materials on science, agriculture, livelihood and information technology, interactive
34 exercises on math, science, history and economics.
35

36 The Department of Education shall refrain from using unverified learning sources such as
37 Wikipedia and develop its own online library as an alternative.
38

39 **Sec. 18. *Public Online Library.*** – The PSOFT Road Map shall include the establishment
40 of the Public Online Library.
41

42 The DepEd, DICT, DOST, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the
43 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in partnership with the
44 National Library of the Philippines, the National Book Development Board, and other concerned
45 government agencies, shall develop and maintain an online repository system that contains
46 educational materials and digitized copies of books and publications suitable for Filipino students
47 and researchers that shall complement learning experience acquired through textbook and
48 reference materials given to students.
49

1 The DepEd shall create digitized copies of all textbooks and reference materials it deems
2 necessary for the education of public elementary and secondary students. The digitized copies of
3 textbooks and reference materials shall be compiled in the Public Online Library, which shall be
4 jointly managed by the DepEd and the DICT.
5

6 The DepEd can tap the National Library of the Philippines, other agencies of the
7 government, and the private sector to complement the Public Online Library's digital repository
8 of textbooks with additional materials.
9

10 The DepEd and the National Library of the Philippines shall have joint custody over the
11 digitized copies of textbooks and reference materials.
12

13 The DICT shall ensure the technological management and security of the online
14 repository system to warrant its integrity.
15

16 The authors of the digitized books and publications shall be strictly covered by the
17 protection provided for in R.A 8293, as amended, otherwise known as the "*Intellectual Property*
18 *Code of the Philippines.*" The DepEd, together with all the concerned agencies, shall ensure that
19 the authors of the digitized books and publications shall be properly remunerated in accordance
20 with law.
21

22 **ARTICLE VIII** 23 **PARTNERSHIP MECHANISM AND ROLES OF PARTNERS** 24

25 **Sec. 19. *Partnership Mechanism and Roles of Partners.*** – In the furtherance of the PSOFT
26 Road Map, the DepEd may coordinate and enter into cooperative agreement, agreement or
27 contract with other government agencies, local government units (LGUs), private and non-profit
28 agencies, institutions or organizations duly accredited or recognized by the government, civil
29 society, business and industrial sector, and other concerned sectors.
30

31 In conformity with their respective charters and mandates, government agencies shall
32 define and delineate their respective areas of responsibility in the PSOFT Road Map. For the
33 purposes of this Act, these agencies have the following roles:
34

- 35 (a) The DepEd shall be the lead government agency responsible for the proper and effective
36 implementation of the various provisions of this Act and ensure coordination and
37 collaboration among agencies of the government.
- 38 (b) The DICT shall provide advice on matters relating to ICT and closely coordinate and
39 collaborate in the implementation of this Act. It shall undertake the installation,
40 maintenance, and operation of hybrid intranet connectivity in all public basic education
41 schools, provide an efficient and reliable broadband connection, assist in the
42 implementation of training and development for teachers concerning ICT and ICT-
43 assisted instructions, and coordinate and collaborate in the provision of digital
44 connectivity in public school.
- 45 (c) The PhilSA shall advise and collaborate with DepEd on matters concerning the use of
46 space technology and relevant space-enabled services to implement the provisions of this
47 Act.
- 48 (d) The DOST, CHED, TESDA, DILG, the local government units (LGUs) and other
49 concerned government agencies mentioned in this Act shall provide support and
50 assistance for the attainment of the purpose of this program.

1
2 **Sec. 20. *Public-Private Partnership for PSOFT.*** – The DepEd can pursue public-private
3 partnerships from any of the modalities under R.A. 6975, as amended by R.A 7718, entitled, “*An*
4 *Act Authorizing the Financing, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance of Infrastructure*
5 *Projects by the Private Sector, and For the Other Purposes.*”
6

7 To this end, the DepEd, in consultation with the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center,
8 shall establish a Public-Private Partnership Unit to coordinate all matters relating to PPP, in
9 accordance with the PSOFT Road Map. It shall likewise coordinate with the PPP Center to solicit
10 the support of its Project Development and Monitoring Facility to conduct business case, pre-
11 feasibility and feasibility studies, and the preparation of tender documents for the PPP projects
12 of the Department.
13

14 **ARTICLE IX**
15 **AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE DONATIONS**

16
17 **Sec. 21. *Authority to Receive Donations.*** – The DepEd is authorized to accept grants,
18 contributions, donations, endowments, or bequests in cash or kind from local and foreign sources
19 in support of the development and implementation of this Act. The proceeds of such grants,
20 contributions, donations, endowments, or bequests shall be used to finance the following:
21

- 22 (a) Research, development, and utilization of emerging digital technologies;
- 23 (b) Provisions of computer laptop units and improvement of ICT infrastructure, including
24 hardware and Internet connectivity;
- 25 (c) Training and capacity building; and
- 26 (d) Conduct of other activities reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.
27

28 **ARTICLE X**
29 **REPORTORIAL PROVISIONS**

30
31 **Sec. 22. *Joint Congressional Oversight.*** – There is hereby created a Joint Congressional
32 Oversight Committee to oversee, monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act.
33

34 The Oversight Committee shall be composed of five (5) members each from the Senate
35 and the House of Representatives, including the Chairpersons of the Committees on Basic
36 Education and Culture and the Committees on Appropriation and Finance of both houses. The
37 members of the committee for every house shall have at least one (1) opposition or minority
38 member.
39

40 **Sec. 23. *Annual Report.*** – The DepEd shall submit to both Houses of Congress, or upon
41 the request by the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, a report giving a detailed account
42 of the status of the implementation of this Act.
43

44 **ARTICLE XI**
45 **FINAL PROVISIONS**

46
47 **Sec. 24. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretaries of Education and Information and
48 Communications Technology and the Director General of PHiLSA shall immediately include in
49 their respective programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included
50 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 The funding for the implementation of PSOFT Pilot Schools under Section 11 hereof shall
2 be charged against the current year’s appropriation of the DepEd.

3
4 **Sec. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within one hundred-twenty (120) days
5 from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd and DICT, in coordination with other concerned
6 agencies of the government and the private stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules
7 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

8
9 **Sec. 26. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional,
10 the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
11 effect.

12
13 **Sec. 27. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
14 proclamations, rules, regulations, issuances and enactments or parts thereof inconsistent with this
15 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

16
17 **Sec. 28. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
18 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

19
20 Approved,