

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3502

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
DATE:	<u>06 SEP 2016</u>
TIME:	<u>2:51 PM</u>
BY:	<u>MEU</u>
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Representative ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public libraries play a vital role in the national and social development of our citizens. Libraries contribute to the improvement of literacy in the country, enable easy access to information and information technology, help deepen one's rootedness in the community, and facilitate the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. If properly supported, public libraries provide the people with access to resources which can help improve their intellectual, economic, and social well-being.

This bill seeks to establish a public library in every city or municipality of the Philippines. Through this, we are closing the gap between the citizens - the children, the youth, the vulnerable and marginalized, the entrepreneur, or the scientist - and their access to information, thereby empowering people to expand their knowledge, meet their information needs, and unleash their potential.

As we are now in the modern era of information literacy, the State must recognize the immense potential of public libraries as partners in the development of a strong nation.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

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HOUSE BILL NO. **3502**

Introduced by Representative ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT

MANDATING THE NATIONWIDE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN EACH CITY AND MUNICIPALITY

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

SECTION 1. *Nationwide Establishment of Public Libraries.* - There shall be established a public library in each city and municipality throughout the country.

SECTION 2. *Implementing Agencies.* - The Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Education, through the Local School Board, shall be the main agencies in charge of the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. *The Library Building and Personnel.*

1. The city or municipality concerned shall either:
 - a. Renovate and occupy an unoccupied room, hall or ground of the City or Municipal Hall or any government establishment and construct the public library thereof; or
 - b. Purchase and renovate a building situated in the city or a municipality where the library will be constructed: *Provided*, That the building shall be procured from the available properties of the local government. *Provided*, Further, that, if there is no available property, the local government concerned shall enjoin the private sector in granting a piece of land for the purpose through Sangguniang Bayan resolutions and subject to the payment of just compensation; or
 - c. Purchase a land situated in the city or a municipality where the library will be constructed: *Provided*, That the land shall be procured from the available properties of the local government concerned. *Provided*, Further, that, if there is no available property, the local government shall enjoin the private sector in granting a piece of land for the purpose through Sangguniang Bayan resolutions and subject to the payment of just compensation.

2. The public library shall have at least three (3) personnel, one (1) head librarian and two (2) assistant librarians.

SECTION 4.*Appropriations.* To carry out the provisions of this Act, there shall be an amount appropriated from the funds of the national treasury not otherwise appropriated: *Provided*, that they were funds of the Department of Education, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this program shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as part of the budget of the Department of Interior and Local Government through the Local School Board.

SECTION 5.*Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended and repealed accordingly.

SECTION 6.*Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general publication.

Approved,