

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4320



Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As we push towards a more digitalized world, computer literacy has become a very important skill in most jobs across all sectors. Considering this, there is a need to ensure that our population can keep up with the technologies currently available. To achieve this, we have to start with the education sector and ensure that they are equipped with the necessary devices and equipment that will help familiarize students (our future workforce) with current technologies. The problem however is that a lot of schools do not have access to computers or only have access to a few older units that cannot perform more advanced functions. On top of this, the number of computer units in most schools is not enough to cater to all students in the school. Our public libraries have the same problem—there are only a few computers and most of them are outdated.

It is in this light that this measure proposes to establish educational technology clearinghouses across the country which shall facilitate the donation of surplus equipment and technology from government agencies, businesses, and other private entities to schools and libraries which need such.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gus S. Tambunting', written in a cursive style.

REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Educational Technology Clearinghouse Act.”

SECTION 2. Purpose. – It is the purpose of this Act to authorize a program to support regional educational technology clearinghouses that facilitate the donation of surplus equipment and technology to schools and libraries from governmental agencies, businesses, and other private entities.

SECTION 3. Authority. – The Secretary of Education shall make grants to or enter into contracts with regional public or private nonprofit entities to support a system of regional educational technology clearinghouses.

In awarding the grants or contract, the Secretary shall ensure that each geographic region of the country is served by such an entity.

SECTION 4. Requirements. – Each entity receiving a grant or contract under this Act shall—

- (A) In cooperation with the regional program to support a clearinghouse that facilitates the transfer of surplus equipment and technology to schools and libraries from governmental agencies, businesses, and other private entities;
- (B) Disseminate information to regional educational agencies about the availability and procurement of the equipment and technology through the clearinghouse;
- (C) Disseminate information to the public about activities assisted under this Act, including information about the donations being accepted by the clearinghouse;

- (D) Have in place a process or ensuring that surplus equipment and technology are distributed fairly and equitably, with school districts with the greatest need for such equipment and technology receiving priority for donations under this Act;
- (E) Provide technical assistance to a school or library to ensure the equipment and technology being donated are consistent with the short-term and long-term educational technology plans for the school or library, respectively;
- (F) Use funds under this Act to upgrade equipment or technology only if the entity determines such upgrading meets the short-term and long-term educational plan of the school or library receiving the equipment or technology; and
- (G) Ensure that the transfer of equipment and technology does not violate copyright, patents, or trademark laws.

SECTION 5. Authorization of Appropriations. – There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,