Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5297**

INTRODUCED BY REP. PM VARGAS

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN E-LIBRARY IN BARANGAY SAN AGUSTIN IN QUEZON CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public libraries are considered as an essential part of the basic services and facilities of each local government unit (LGU) as mandated by the Local Government Code of 1991. Republic Act No. 7743 otherwise known as "An Act Providing for the Establishment of Congressional, City, and Municipal Libraries and Barangay Reading Centers Throughout the Philippines, Appropriating the Necessary Funds Therefore and For Other Purposes" further strengthens this power and provides for the establishment of additional public libraries to serve all congressional districts, cities, and municipalities in the Philippines, and reading centers in every barangay.

Under these laws, it is declared the national policy of the State to promote the moral and intellectual well-being of the people; elevate the literacy level of every Filipino; and recognize the vital role of knowledge and information in nation-building by establishing public libraries in local government units all throughout the country.

However, the Filipino people have yet to enjoy the full implementation of these important laws as there are still many provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays without access to public libraries or reading centers.

With the onset of the digital age, a promising alternative is to set-up virtual libraries or "e-libraries" in barangay halls to make knowledge and information more accessible to the public.

This alternative saves on costs of capital outlay from putting up public libraries and reading centers while local government funds are still scarce.

This bill seeks to establish an e-library in the Barangay Hall of Barangay San Agustin in Quezon City. The e-library shall be established with at least three (3) sets of computers with access to the internet in the barangay hall. It shall be used by the public for free and as a means to gather valuable knowledge and information, get access to e-books online, and connect to the internet for research and educational purposes.

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

REP. PM VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines

SECTION 1. ***Short Title***. – This Act shall be known as the "*Barangay San Agustin E-Library Act*".

SECTION 2. ***Barangay San Agustin e-Library.*** **–** There is hereby established an e-library in Barangay San Agustin in Quezon City. The e-library established by this Act shall be located in the Barangay Hall of Barangay San Agustin.

It shall have at least three (3) computers with access to the internet and shall be used exclusively for educational and research purposes. The use of the e-library shall be free of charge to the public.

SECTION 3. ***Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the establishment of the e-library and the purchase of the computers shall be generated from the funds of the Department of Interior and Local Government. The maintenance of the e-library established shall be the responsibility and shall be charged to Barangay San Agustin.

SECTION 4. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** **–** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government shall, in coordination with the Local Government Unit and other stakeholders, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. ***Non-Impairment Clause.*** – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 6. ***Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, parts or provisions of this Act which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, Implementing Rules and Regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,