Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3082



Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE IRENE GAY F. SAULOG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Education is unequivocally given importance by the 1987 Constitution. As a matter of policy, the State shall give priority to education. (Article II, Section 17) Article XIV, Section 2 (1) also provides that the State shall:

Establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people and society;

In light of these policies, this proposed measure seeks to further improve the quality of education, particularly in public schools. It specifically aims to enhance the capability of the public school teachers by subsidizing their postgraduate studies. It is an investment in human capital that will pay huge dividends in a well-educated population.

Improving the state of the public school system will undoubtedly benefit the poor who largely rely on the free public education provided by the State. They will receive quality education which will provide them the opportunity to secure a better future. It is our belief that by subsidizing free quality public education, the State will be in a better position to combat poverty in the country.

RENE GAY F. SAULOG Kalinga Party-list

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AN ACT GRANTING SCHOLARSHIP TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Continuing Education for Public School Teachers Act."

- SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the State to give priority to education as a means of cultivating patriotism and nationalism, attaining social progress, and promoting total human liberation and development. In the same vein, the state shall also establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education.
- SEC. 3. Continuing Education Program. As a means of improving the quality of education in the country, all teachers in the public school system are encouraged to pursue postgraduate studies. The Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall implement a scholarship program to enable public school teachers to pursue further studies.

- **SEC. 4.** *Coverage.* All teachers in the public school system (elementary, secondary, and collegiate level) are eligible to avail of the scholarship program.
- SEC. 5. Scope of the Scholarship Grant. The scholarship grant for public school teachers shall cover the full cost of the tuition fee of the postgraduate study, be it a master's degree or a doctorate degree. The scholarship grant may be used in any of the state colleges and universities in the country. Under the scholarship program, a teacher may avail of a maximum of 2 postgraduate degrees within a 5-year period.

A stipend of P20,000 per semester would also be given under the scholarship program to help the teachers shoulder other school-related expenses. During the course of the implementation of the scholarship program, the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) may adjust the stipend accordingly to account for inflation.

- **SEC.** 6. Service Requirement. A teacher shall continue serving in the public school system for a minimum period of 2 years after availing of the scholarship grant. The 2-year period shall commence from the last month of the semester when the teacher availed of the scholarship grant. The 2-year period shall be applied to the latest scholarship grant availed by the teacher.
- SEC. 7. Funding. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) under the current General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual GAA.
- SEC 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act within a period of two (2) months from the approval hereof.

SEC 9. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,