

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

2138

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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REGISTRATION UNIT
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by **HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**

**AN ACT GRANTING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS
NON-WAGE BENEFIT IN THE FORM OF FREE TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR A
MAXIMUM OF THREE (3) DEPENDENT CHILDREN IN STATE UNIVERSITIES OR
COLLEGES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant our public elementary and high school teachers non-wage benefit in the form of free tertiary education for a maximum of three (3) dependent children in state universities or colleges.

It is a constitutionally mandated principle of the State to assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfilment. Moreover, Republic Act No. 4670 or the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers provides that it is the duty of the State to promote and improve the social and economic status of public school teachers.

Unfortunately, due to perennial budget shortfall, these benefits are being denied to our unsung heroes.

This bill seeks to meet the avowed policy of the Magna Carta by uplifting the economic condition of public school teachers. Under the provision of this Act, all public elementary and high school teachers shall be exempt from paying tuition, matriculation, miscellaneous and other fees for a maximum of three (3) dependent children attending any state university or college. The Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education shall jointly promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this provision.

To give due recognition to our public school teachers' dedication and hard work, and to enhance the status of the teaching profession, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

HON. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

House Bill No. 2138

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

Section 1. Public elementary and high school teachers shall be exempt from paying tuition, matriculation, miscellaneous and other fees for a maximum of three (3) dependent children in state universities or colleges. *Provided*, that the children meet the minimum requirements for admission to the educational institution of their choice.

SEC. 2. Each dependent shall be provided with a stipend worth P15,000.00 by the state university or college where the child is enrolled.

SEC. 3. For purposes of this Act, public elementary and high school teachers shall be understood to include the following:

- a) *Nationally-Funded Public School Teachers* which include persons engaged in: (1) actual classroom teaching in public basic education; (2) teaching in alternative learning system (ALS); and (3) actual classroom teaching in the Philippine Science High School System.
- b) *Locally-Funded Teachers* which include public school teachers who are hired and paid for, fully or partially, by a local government unit or any other local entity in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by the Department of Education.

SEC. 4. Appropriations.—To immediately implement the provision of this Act, the initial funding shall be sourced from the savings of the state university or college and other possible sources that may be determined by the Office of the President, *provided* that, subsequent funds needed shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the year following the approval of this Act.

SEC. 5. Implementing Agency. —The Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education shall promulgate the implementing rules and

regulations necessary to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of this Act. Provided however that the IRR shall be submitted to Congress for approval.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*—Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*—All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.