

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

5165
HOUSE BILL No. _____

Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO

AN ACT
GRANTING FREE POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL
TEACHERS IN STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE


This bill proposes to give free post-graduate scholarship for public and private school teachers.

The right of a teacher to professional development is recognized by the 1987 Constitution, the *Magna Carta for Public School Teachers* (Republic Act 4670), and the 1996 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Culture Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labor Organization. The state must therefore make this right a reality by, among others, ensuring that post-graduate education is free and accessible to public and private school teachers.

It is a common complaint among teachers in the field that, aside from having no sufficient time due to heavy teaching and non-teaching-related loads given to them, they have no money for enrolling in and finishing masteral and doctoral courses. No post-graduate education means that the chances of promotion are bleak. Since Philippine teachers, both in public and private schools, are among the most underpaid in the world, it is very rare for teachers to set aside savings which could be spent for further education.

If this bill is enacted, teachers will have a chance to upgrade their educational and professional growth by affording them post-graduate education in state and local universities and colleges without the additional financial burden.

For the above reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "*Free Post-Graduate Education for Teachers Act.*"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the professional growth of public and private schools teachers. The State policy of promoting and improving teachers' terms of employment and career prospects in order that they may compare favorably with existing opportunities in other walks of life and to attract and retain in the teaching profession more people with the proper qualifications, it being recognized that advance in education depends on the qualifications and ability of the teaching staff and that education is an essential factor in the economic growth of the nation as a productive investment of importance.

SECTION 3. *Free post-graduate education in all State Colleges and Universities (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs).* Tuition and miscellaneous fees shall not be charged from teachers during their post-graduate studies.

SECTION 4. *Coverage.* The right to free post-graduate studies shall be extended to teachers in public and private schools.

SECTION 5. *Eligibility.* Public and private school teachers must be active in the service and have rendered at least two consecutive years of teaching prior to the date of the application of said grant. They must also they pass the entrance examination and other admission and retention requirements of the SUCs and LUCs.

SECTION 6. *Implementation.* The Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall be the implementing agencies for this Act and must, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the implementing rules and regulation necessary to ensure its efficient and effective implementation. For this purpose, they are hereby mandated to consult teachers' organizations and accredited teachers' unions.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of CHED, and the SUCs and LUCs. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The Department of Budget and Management is mandated to include in the annual national expenditure program the proposals of the SUCs and LUCs necessary for the grant of the free post-graduate education provided under this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* Any Laws, decrees, or laws, decrees, or rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,