

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4657



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The quality of public education in the country highly depends on the qualifications and abilities of teachers. In order to attract and retain competent educators that would ensure quality education for our youth, we must promote and improve the social and economic status of public school teachers.

Unfortunately, public school teachers are among the most underpaid and overworked workers today. In some cases, teachers even have to bear the expenses for lesson preparation due to lack of instructional materials in schools. Based on reports, the accumulated debt of public school teachers across the country has reached a staggering P300 billion. This shows the urgent need to give public school teachers their long-overdue wage hike.

This bill seeks to raise the minimum salary grade level of teachers from the current Salary Grade 11 to 19. This is in recognition of their dedication in providing quality education to our youth amid their challenging working and living situations. By providing them decent salaries, this will bring dignity to their noble profession and motivate them to strive for excellence as they mold our children's future.

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


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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AN ACT
UPGRADING THE MINIMUM SALARY GRADE LEVEL OF TEACHERS FROM
SALARY GRADE 11 TO 19

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

SECTION 1. *Increase in the Minimum Salary Grade Level.* – The present minimum salary grade level of public school teachers in the elementary and secondary schools shall be upgraded from Grade 11 to Grade 19: Provided, however, That the salary upgrading shall be differentiated in accordance with the qualifications and length of service rendered by teachers and shall not be prejudiced by across the board salary adjustments.

SECTION 2. *Priority in Budget Allocation.* – The National Government shall appropriate such amount, as may be necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act: Provided, That the salary increase of public school teachers shall take priority over other non-educational and non-agricultural budgetary allocations.

SECTION 3. *Appropriations.* – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall come up with a specific programmed budget needed to cover the expenses for the upgrading in salary levels for all the corresponding teacher plantilla positions for a period of at least five (5) years to allow the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to make the necessary budgetary adjustments to facilitate the smooth implementation of this Act.

The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the approval of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DepEd and the DBM shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,