

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3998



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Introduced by Representative **TYRONE D AGABAS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to lower the optional retirement age of public school teachers from 60 to 55 years old so as to give justice to the plight of our public school teachers.

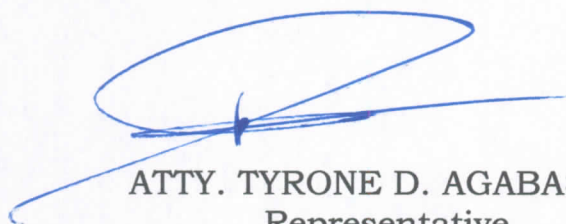
It is said, **when a public teacher retires at the age of 55, he or she will probably reach the age of 80, but when a public teacher retires at the age of 60, he or she will only reach the age of 65.**

This is how the longevity of public teachers is now measured given the herculean task lodged unto them in a day to day basis. The continuing hazard and high level of stress attendant to the environment in which they live in, mostly result to absorption of occupation related diseases like lung cancer and other terminal illnesses. Records disclose that public school teachers in our country are working under bleak working conditions. Teachers also work in 40 out of 54 weeks per year. Working under this condition, propelled by long hours of works inclusive of vacation months and holidays, as teachers continue to bring their advisory and work related loads at home, unnecessarily exposes public teachers to deteriorating health conditions.

Public school teachers should be given the necessary accolades for a job well done. They should be given the privilege of optional retirement at an earlier age taking into consideration the working conditions they are in, and the tributes that should be conferred upon them for their contribution in transforming our students into an educated and productive citizens. And most importantly, public school teachers should

be given the option and the opportunity to enjoy their lives at an earlier stage for themselves and their families at the age of 55.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a small vertical stroke.

ATTY. TYRONE D. AGABAS  
Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> District, Pangasinan

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**AN ACT**  
**LOWERING THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT AGE OF PUBLIC SHOOOL**  
**TEACHERS FROM SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD TO FIFTY-FIVE (55)**  
**YEARS OLD AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13-A OF**  
**REPUBLIC ACT 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT**  
**SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997**

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

1       **SECTION 1.** Section 13-A of Republic Act 8291, or the *Revised*  
2       *Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997*, is hereby  
3       amended to read as follows:

4               “Section 13-A. Conditions for Entitlement, x x x A member  
5               who retires from the service shall be entitled to the  
6               retirement benefits in paragraph (a) of Section 13 hereof:  
7               Provided, That:

8               “(1) he OR SHE has rendered at least fifteen (15) years of  
9               service;

10              “(2) he OR SHE is at least sixty (60) years of age at the time  
11              of retirement, OR AT LEAST FIFTY-FIVE (55) YEARS OF AGE  
12              IN THE CASE OF PUBLIC SHOOOL TEACHERS; and

13              “(3) he OR SHE is not receiving a monthly pension benefit  
14              from permanent total disability”



**SECTION 2.** The provisions in pertinent implementing rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*