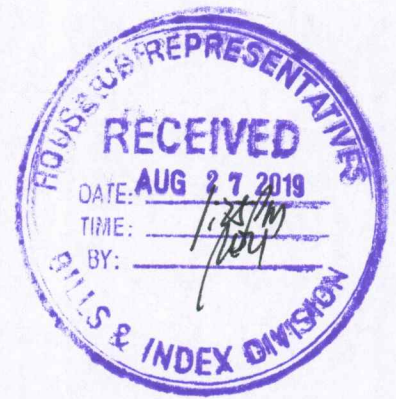




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

4169

H. B. No. _____

Introduced by Representative TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7157, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SERVICE ACT OF 1991, TO INCREASE EDUCATIONAL
ALLOWANCE FOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In this day and age of globalization, the vital role of Foreign Service Officers, as a facet of growth, is one that cannot be overemphasized. Our Foreign Service Officers are at the front lines of diplomacy and in many times, serve as the emissaries of our government to Filipinos in distress worldwide.

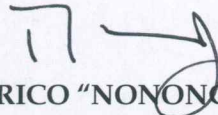
These public servants are a class of their own. In response to the call of service, they incessantly dedicate their time and energy for the betterment of the Philippines, all the while being in foreign soil. Foreign Service Officers, on top of performing public duty, make the ultimate sacrifice of leaving the comfort of their home country. And while it is impossible to measure in monetary terms the sacrifice laid down by these gallant public servants, it is the State's bounden duty to at least recognize and reciprocate their efforts.

As such, this bill was crafted to alleviate the plight of Foreign Service Officers, even if a little. This bill seeks to amend Sections 63 (f) and 72 of Republic Act Number 7157, or the Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991, to increase the amount and coverage of education allowance for Foreign Service Officers. Particularly, the proposed amendments will increase the reimbursable amount of education allowance to the actual costs incurred in education of legal dependents of foreign service officers numbering not more than four (4).

Said amendments are in conformity with the declared State Policies under Section 12, Article 2, 1987 Constitution, which states in part that "[t]he State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution." Furthermore, Section 17 of the same Article provides in part that "[t]he State shall give

priority to education." These amendments seek to encourage Foreign Service Officers to bring their family in their country of assignment and to give their children the best possible education befitting of their status, in recognition and vindication to the invaluable service the Foreign Service officers give to our country.

Wherefore, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. TEODORICO "NONONG" T. HARESCO, JR.
Representative
2nd District, Province of Aklan

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 63 (f), of Republic Act Number 7157, otherwise known as the
2 Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 "Title XII

5
6 "ALLOWANCES, PER DIEMS, TRAVEL EXPENSES AND BENEFITS

7
8 "Part A. Allowances

9
10 "Section 63. *System of Allowances.* - xxx:

11
12 "(a) xxx;

13
14 "xxx;

15
16 "(f) *Education allowance.* - To compensate for additional educational cost
17 incurred by officers and employees assigned abroad for legal dependent
18 children not exceeding **FOUR (4)** in number who are enrolled in the
19 primary and elementary grades and high school **OR ITS EQUIVALENT**
20 where free public education is absent;"

21
22 SEC. 2. Section 72 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

23
24 "Section 72. *Education Allowances.* - Education allowance may be granted
25 to officers and employees assigned abroad who are citizens of the
26 Philippines of their legal dependent children not exceeding **FOUR (4)** in
27 number, who are enrolled in the primary, elementary and high school levels
28 **OR ITS EQUIVALENT**. This grant shall not, however, be payable in
29 respect to post where free educational is provided for.

1
2 The allowance may be granted as reimbursement of **ALL** actual costs
3 **INCURRED FOR EDUCATION AND THOSE RELATED THERETO**
4 subject to presentation of receipts and other evidence of payment of
5 matriculation, tuition, books and other school fees.”
6
7 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or
8 other issuances or parts thereof contrary to inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
9 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
10
11 **SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provisions of this Act or the application of such
12 provision to any person or circumstances be declared unconstitutional, the remainder of
13 this Act or the application of such provision to other person or circumstances shall not be
14 affected by such declaration.
15
16 **SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.
17
18 *Approved,*