

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 118

Introduced by Representative JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
DEVELOPING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS
TEACHERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In our genuine effort to be major players in the global arena, it is of paramount importance to have exceptionally and highly educated students. But without the contribution of our teachers in the molding of our youth, it will be close to impossible to create such an ideal studentry. It is also, therefore, important to create and maintain an adequate pool of highly qualified, motivated and globally competitive teachers, particularly those in the area of science and mathematics, to enable and strengthen the Philippines in its aim of becoming globally competitive.

This bill, therefore, seeks to enjoin students in mathematics and science to pursue a career in teaching. It seeks to advance their specialization, sustain interest in this field and encourage them to stay in science and mathematics teaching. It also provides measures that will continually upgrade the competence of those who are already in such fields of teaching. The measures include:

- (1) providing scholarships and specialized training programs;
- (2) seeking waivers from the Professional Regulatory Commission to allow new graduates to teach between graduation time and taking the licensure Examination for Teachers (LET);
- (3) giving certified teachers a higher starting pay than their basic salary;
- (4) giving rewards to top scores in the LET;
- (5) giving promotions to non-science and non-mathematics majors who have completed a certification program in science content;
- (6) giving merit promotions through examination; and

(7) creating a Science and mathematics Teachers Development Found to finance programs for the continuing improvement of teacher's skill

In effect, this bill will ensure that teaching in the fields of science and mathematics become as competitive as other professions and the availability of competent teachers to educate Filipinos for global excellence.

In view of the foregoing, I therefore urge my colleagues to ensure the immediate passage of this bill into law.


JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL ARROYO
2nd District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known and cited as "Developing Globally Competitive Science and Mathematics Teachers Act of "

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy and Objectives.*- Science and technology are essential for national development progress. The State shall give priority to science and technology education, training and services, research and development, invention innovation and utilization.

Pursuant to this policy, the state shall ensure a corps of highly motivated and competitive science and mathematics teachers by:

- (a) Attracting above-average student through scholarship and other incentives to join the teaching profession as science and mathematics teachers; and by;
- (b) Designing and advancing a rewarding professional career for qualified science and mathematics teachers in the Philippines.

SECTION 3. *Benefits and Incentives.* - To continually attract above-average student and baccalaureate graduates of science degree courses who majored in science or mathematics to join the teaching profession as science and mathematics teachers, the following incentive shall be provided:

- (a) Priority in government scholarship grants, allowances study visits, placement, publications and research support, wherever appropriate, to teachers and student who enrol in science or mathematics teaching courses;
- (b) Temporary waiver of the requirements under Section 13, Article III of Republic Act No, 7836 to undergo the written Licensure Examination for Teachers given by the Professional Regulation Commission and secure a valid certificate of registration and professional license from the Commission, to allow new Bachelor of Science in Education graduates majored in science and mathematics to be employed as science and mathematics teachers; Provided, that such graduates shall successfully undergo said licensure examination and secure a valid certification and professional licence from the Commission within one (1) year from date of employment.

(c) Within five years from the approval of this Act, baccalaureate graduates of science degree courses may be recruited to teach science or mathematics in public or private elementary and secondary schools for not more than three years: Provided, that indefinite extension or permanent appointment may be given to science degree graduates who have passed their respective licensure examinations and earned at least ten (10) units of teaching pedagogy and pass the licence examination for teachers before being permanently appointed as science or mathematics teachers;

(d) Specialized continuing education and training in science and mathematics teaching;

(e) Rewards and recognition in cash or in kind to new Bachelor of Science in Education graduates who majored in science or mathematics and obtained the top twenty (20) slots in the licensure examination for Teachers administered by the Professional Regulation Commission; and

(f) In the case of science and mathematics teachers in public school, a starting salary grade, two (2) grades higher than that of a regular teacher.

SECTION 4. *Salary Adjustments for Incumbent Science and Mathematics Teachers.*- Upon the approval of this Act, the salary grade of incumbent public school science and mathematics teachers who majored in science or mathematics shall be increased by two grades. The salary grade of incumbent public school science and mathematics teachers who did not major in science or mathematics but have been competently teaching for at least two years, as certified by the school principal and district supervisor, shall be increased by two (2) grades higher than that of professional non-science teachers. Such salary increase shall take after they have passed a merit examination in their field of specialization to be administered by the Department of Education with the support of the Department of Science and Technology.

SECTION 5. *Supplementary Appropriation.*- A supplementary appropriation in the amount of Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000.00) is hereby provided to the Department of Education from the income of the Philippines Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) on the year this Act is approved. Thereafter, such amounts that are necessary shall be included in the General Appropriations Act to support the benefits, incentives, and salary upgrading stated in Sections 3 and 4 of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education in cooperation with the Department of Science and Technology, shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of the Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, any other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,