

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
17th CONGRESS
First Regular Session
2643
House Bill No. _____

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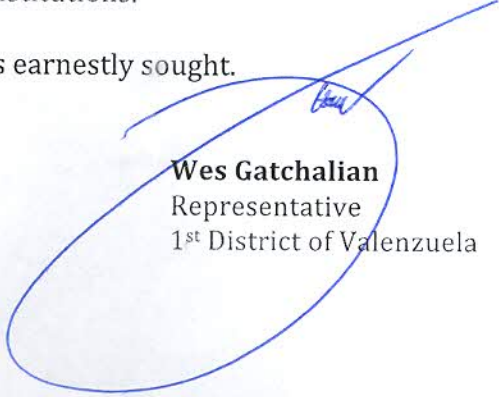
Introduced by Representative Wes Gatchalian

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The role of teachers in nation building cannot be overstated. In no uncertain terms, they are the molds used to make sure that the next generations of Filipinos are in shape. The competence and the character of the next leaders and members of our society are in a great measure, resting on their hands. Given these overwhelming realities, it is therefore in the state's interest to ensure that our highly capable teachers are constantly provided the avenue and the tools that they need to improve on and to perfect their craft. This bill now proposes to establish a system of mandatory continuing education of teachers in the primary and the secondary levels in both private and public schools.

Several foreseen benefits for both the teachers and in effect to the students would be derived from this measure. First is that it would provide teachers with up-to-date information on their respective fields. We are at a point in human history where new knowledge is constantly being uncovered at an unprecedented rate. The state must do all it can in making sure that all these are systematically passed on to the students. Second is that the proposed program would also be an avenue to provide teachers with new teaching techniques that would allow them to more effectively transfer their expertise to their students. Several breakthroughs in child psychology have birthed new teaching techniques that better cater to children in this ever-changing world. While the proponent of this law is a strong advocate of academic freedom and as such believes that teachers must have a certain level of autonomy in how they conduct their classes, it is with equal fervor submitted that it would be highly imprudent to not at least provide our teachers with trainings on these new techniques to arm them when by their judgment their use are merited. Finally this program, as was seen in other fields such as in the legal profession, would also be an avenue for teachers to exchange ideas and provide feedbacks that may lead to much needed system-wide revisions in the learning institutions.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Wes Gatchalian
Representative
1st District of Valenzuela

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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House Bill No. **2643**

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING A PROGRAM FOR THE MANDATORY CONTINUING
EDUCATION OF TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS, IN
BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFORE

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 as "The Continuing Education for Teachers Act".

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - The State recognizes the vital role of teachers in nation-building and development through a responsible and literate citizenry. It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to receive quality education. It is likewise universally recognized that the teacher is the key to the effectiveness of the teaching-learning process by drawing out and nurturing the best in the learner as a human being and a worthy member of society. Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to provide and ensure quality education by strengthening the education and training of teachers nationwide and equipping them with the necessary training and skills so that they may keep abreast with developments in instructional and teaching techniques.

SEC. 3. **Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) "Education Activity" shall refer to an organized method of learning chosen by the Provider to conduct the continuing education of teachers;
- (b) "Mandatory Continuing Education" shall refer to a an institutionalized system whereby teachers shall complete every three years, at least

twenty-four (24) hours to a maximum of thirty-six (36) hours of mandatory continuing education activities as may be determined by the executive committee, such as but not limited to; training in professional education and general education and teaching methods in their field of specialization;

- (c) "*Program*" shall refer to the system determined by the Department of Education with which to deliver and implement the continuing education of teachers;
- (d) "*Teacher*" shall refer to all persons engaged in teaching at the primary and secondary levels, whether on full-time or part-time basis, and all other persons performing supervisory and/or administrative functions in all schools in the aforesaid levels and qualified to practice teaching under Republic Act No. 7836.

SEC. 4. **Coverage** - The National Government shall engage and undertake a complete and comprehensive national program for mandatory continuing education for all primary and secondary teachers in both private and public educational institutions as well as formal and non-formal institutions of learning. Teachers who possess a post graduate degree are not covered by this Act, but they may voluntarily attend and participate in the program.

SEC. 5. **Implementation of the Program.** - The Mandatory Continuing Teacher's Education Program shall consist of at least twenty-four (24) hours to a maximum of thirty-six (36) hours of mandatory continuing education activities as may be determined by the executive committee to be preferably conducted at least eight (8) to twelve (12) hours per day on consecutive days, at the end of every school year and before the resumption of classes. As far as practicable, the program shall be conducted and provided by the Department of Education in the school district where the teachers belong.

This section shall in no case, be a restriction on the ability of the Executive Committee concerned to provide for the manner in which the required hours of continuing education must be completed.

SEC. 6. **Guiding Principles.** - In the formulation and implementation of the program for mandatory continuing education for teachers, the State shall be guided by the following principles;

- (a) The program should include training and practice in the different techniques, approaches and strategies that would help teachers to plan

and impart instruction, provide appropriate reinforcement and conduct effective assessment. It shall likewise provide effective classroom management skills, preparation and use of instructional materials and communication skills, as well as training in new developments in the school curriculum;

- (b) The State shall ensure that the program for mandatory continuing teacher education is not only beneficial for the students but must also be beneficial for the teacher's professional growth and development;
- (c) The State shall provide a program that is globally competitive and at the same time customized and suited to the Philippine education setting;
- (d) The program shall be free and no cost shall be passed on to the teachers for attendance and completion;
- (e) The State shall ensure that the continuing education program shall be implemented in a venue that is accessible and will not cause undue burden to the teachers. It shall ensure that the venue is accessible by the usual modes of travel and is at a place which will be most convenient for teachers;
- (f) The program must likewise provide, upon its completion, an assessment that shall adequately quantify the effectiveness of the program.

SEC. 7. *Standards for Education Activities.* - All continuing teacher's education activity must meet the following standards:

- (a) The activity shall have significant intellectual or practical content, and the primary objective shall be to increase the participant's professional competence as a teacher and his or her ability to deliver quality educational services in an efficient and competent manner;
- (b) The activity shall constitute an organized program of learning, dealing with matters directly related to the practice of teaching, professional responsibility, or ethical obligations of teachers;
- (c) The activity must be constituted of organized programs of learning related to classroom subjects and other related academic activities that shall enhance teaching and non-teaching skills, as well as improvements in writing and oral advocacy.

This section shall in no case, be a restriction on the ability of the Executive Committee concerned in formulating additional standards and regulations with regard to the program and education activities.

SEC.8. *The Executive Committee on Continuing Teacher Education.* - The Department of Education shall create their respective Executive Committee which shall be directly responsible for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

The Executive Committee in the Department of Education shall be composed of the Department Secretary, as the ex-officio chairman, and a Commissioner of the Professional Regulations Commission as an ex-officio member. The Chairman shall appoint the other members of the committee who shall be composed of the following;

- (a) A public school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates recommended by a government recognized public school teacher's organization from Luzon;
- (b) A public school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates recommended by a government recognized public school teacher's organization from the Visayas;
- (c) A public school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates recommended by a government recognized public school teacher's organization from Mindanao;
- (d) A private school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates recommended by a government recognized private school teacher's organization from Luzon;
- (e) A private school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates recommended by a government recognized private school teacher's organization from the Visayas;
- (f) A private school teacher chosen from at least three (3) candidates recommended by a government recognized private school teacher's organization from Mindanao.

SEC.9. *The Program for Continuing Teacher Education.* - Subject to the rules that shall be adopted by the respective Executive Committees, the program for continuing teacher's education shall be conducted by the Executive Committee concerned.

SEC.10. *Appropriations.* - The amount of One Hundred Million pesos (P 100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act which shall be incorporated in the Annual Budget of the Department of

Education. Thereafter, the amount necessary to carry out the implementation of the program as determined by the Executive Committee of the Department of Education shall be incorporated in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. ***Annual report to Congress.*** - The Department of Education shall respectively render an annual report to the Congress reporting on the accomplishment of the Program.

SEC. 12. ***Evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.*** - Within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act and every three (3) years thereafter, Department of Education shall respectively conduct an assessment on the impact of the program to the quality of education in the country.

SEC. 13. ***Implementing Guidelines.*** - The Executive Committee of the Department of Education shall respectively issue the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 14. ***Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. ***Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. ***Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national papers of general circulation.

Approved,