Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 801



Introduced by Representative Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The attached bill proposes to provide measures that will attract bright students in mathematics and science to pursue a career in science teaching, to enable them to advance in their specialization, sustain their interest in this field, and encourage them to stay in science teaching. It also provides measures that will continually upgrade the competence of those who are already in science teaching. The measure 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 the basic salary; (4) giving rewards to the top scorers in the LET; (5) giving promotions to non-science majors who have completed a certification program in science content; (6) giving merit promotions through examinations; and (7) creating a Science Teachers Development Fund to finance programs for the continuing improvement of teachers' skills.

The bill also aims to create and maintain an adequate pool of highly qualified, motivated, and globally competitive S & T Teachers to propel the Philippines into becoming globally competitive.

At present, few education students major in science teaching. Of those who do, very few excel in science and mathematics. This inadequacy is aggravated by the fast turnover of science and mathematics teachers. The main reason for this dismal condition is that teaching is not as financially attractive as other professions. Because science and technology education are essential to national development and progress, the above problems have to be addressed.

HARLIN CAST. ABAYON

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AN ACT GRANTING CERTAIN BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES TO SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHERS.

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as "Science and Mathematics Teachers Development."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy and Objectives. - Science and Technology are essential for national development and progress. The state shall give priority to science and technology education, training and services, research and development, invention, innovation and their 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 students through scholarships and other incentives to join the teaching profession as science and mathematics teachers; and

(b) Designing and advancing a rewarding professional career for qualified science and mathematics teachers; and

SECTION 3. Benefits and Incentives. - To continually attract above-average students 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 incentives shall be provided.

(a) Priority in government scholarship grants, allowances, study visits, placements, publications and research support, wherever appropriate, to teachers and students who enroll in science and mathematics teachers courses;

(b) Temporary waiver of the requirements under Section 13, Article III of R.A. No. 7836 to undergo the written Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) 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 who 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 license from the Commission within one (1) year from date of employment;

(c) Within five (5) years from the approval of this Act, baccalaureate graduates of science degree courses maybe recruited to teach science or mathematics in public or private elementary and secondary schools for not more than three (3) school 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: Provided, further, That science degree graduates who have not taken nor passed their respective licensure examinations shall be required to earn at least ten (10) units of teaching pedagogy and pass the Licensure 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 and 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 schools, a starting salary grade shall be two (2) grades higher than that of a regular teacher.

SECTION 4. Salary Adjustment 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 (2) 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 effect after they have passed a merit examination in their field of specialization to be administered by the Department of

Education, Culture and Sports with the support of the Department of Science and Technology.

SECTION 5. Supplementary Appropriations. – A supplementary appropriation in the amount of Five hundred million pesos (Php 500,000.000) is hereby provided to the Department of Education, Culture and Sports from any net income realized by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) on the year this Act is approved. Thereafter, such amounts that are necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or portions thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. – In the event any of the provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the other provisions shall be affected thereby.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,