

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HB NO. 1629



Introduced by Rep. Roseller L. Barinaga

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has been declared the policy of the State to "give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development". (*Section 17, Article II of the 1987 Constitution*)

Despite the constitutional provision which states that "the State shall enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement" and "ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment," most, if not all of the four hundred thousand public school teachers are incessantly dissatisfied by their compensation and incentive package.

The best way to ensure that students avail of quality education is by making sure that the educators themselves become recipients of quality education. This can only be achieved through a viable scholarship program for deserving public school teachers.

Public school teachers must imbibe the much needed professional teaching and administrative skills which can only be acquired through continuing education programs.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roseller L. Barinaga".

ROSELLER L. BARINAGA

Representative

2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte

Congress of the Philippines)
Thirteenth Congress)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 the "Public School Teachers' Scholarship Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. The state shall give priority to education to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development. In line with the above, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement.

SEC. 3. Scholarship Fund. There is hereby established a Public School Teachers Scholarship Fund, to be jointly administered by the Department of Education (Dep. Ed.) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

SEC. 4. Coverage. The grant of any scholarship award from the fund shall be made in such areas in the graduate and post-graduate courses as may be provided for in the rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Dep. Ed. and the CHED.

SEC. 5. Assistance to Grantees. The grantee of the scholarship program under this Act shall be entitled to financial assistance which may include tuition and other school fees, outright grant for prescribed textbooks and essential school supplies, transportation expenses and monthly living allowance: *Provided, however,* That in the granting of financial assistance, the availability of funds, purchasing power of the peso and rate of financial assistance given under other government scholarship programs must be considered.

SEC. 6. Qualifications. In order to qualify for the scholarship program, the applicant must have the following qualifications:

(a) A public school teacher for at least two (2) years, whether continuous or broken, to avail of graduate programs, and at least four (4) years, whether continuous or broken, to avail of post-graduate programs;

(b) Of good moral character and in good health; and

(c) Such other qualifications as the Dep. Ed. and the CHED may determine including, but not limited to, to regular qualifying examinations.

SEC. 7. *Place of Study.* The grantee of the scholarship privileges under this Act shall be required to pursue their graduate and post-graduate studies at any academic or training institutions in the country duly accredited by the Dep. Ed. and the CHED.

Refusal or failure to comply with this provision shall be ground for disqualification from the program.

SEC. 8. *Service Obligation.* Immediately upon completion of each graduate or post-graduate program, a grantee shall serve the country on full-time basis only, along his/her field of training for a minimum period equivalent to the length of the scholarship. For this purpose, the grantee shall execute a contract with the government incorporating the details of the said service obligation.

Any grantee of the program who has not completed his/her course shall render service to the country equivalent to the number of years he/she enjoyed the scholarship.

Any grantee who violates the service obligation imposed under this Section shall be liable to reimburse the government of the fund assistance received under this Act in full or *pro tanto* as the case may be.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Education (Dep. Ed.) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Appropriation.* The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated out of one percent (1%) of the gross sales of the lotto operations of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* If for any reason any provision or section of this Act is declared unconstitutional, such portions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.