

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 3123



Introduced by: Ma. Milagros H. Magsaysay

AN ACT
TO UPGRADE THE SALARY GRADE LEVEL OF PUBLIC SCHOOL
TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 10 TO SALARY GRADE 20, AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT 6758, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF.

Be enacted by the Senate and the House of representatives of the Philippines in the
Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. The Salary grade of Public School Teacher under Republic Act No. 6758
otherwise known as the Salary Standardization Law, as amended, is hereby upgraded
from Salary Grade 10 to 20.

SEC. 2. The Department of Budget and Management shall promulgate the necessary
rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

SEC 3. All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent
with this act hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is often said that the most overworked but most underpaid public servant in the government are the teachers. However, Our Constitution, Section 5 (5), Article XIV thereof, mandates that to ensure that teaching will attract available talents, adequate remuneration and other means of satisfaction and fulfillment should be given to the teachers. The irony of the teaching profession is that despite the professional qualifications, high educational background and experience and their official assignments, school teachers are not aptly remunerated.

Education is the pillar of national development and progress. Yet, the very persons charged with the duty of maintaining and improving our educational system have been neglected and overlooked. Despite the constitutional mandate that the State shall include the salaries of teachers, a survey of the Civil Service Commission reveals that the family of the typical public school teacher still subsists below the Philippine poverty line. Where once upon a time the teaching profession was considered one of the noblest professions, now it has lost its luster, and fewer and fewer have entered this profession. Public school teachers have found alternative solutions to their economic woes by employing themselves as housemaids or nannies in other countries, like Hongkong and the Middle East, or have resorted to vendind with the school premises.

It has been found by the Congressional Commission on Education that the teachers' complaints center on three principal problems: namely, low salaries, too many activities that are not related to teaching, and non-implementation of existing laws granting benefits to the teachers. The cornerstone of any public policy to upgrade teachers quality must be the restoration of their dignity and their standard of living. The initial step to restore the image of the teaching profession is to uplift the economic condition of the teachers. To achieve this, it is imperative that their salaries should be upgraded to that level where they could live a decent and respective life.

While EDCOM's recommendation is to increase the salary levels from grade 10 to grade 17, this Bill proposal is Grade 20, in view of the fact that the study of EDCOM was made in 1991 and implementation of this new scale might suffer certain delays.

To restore the image of the teaching profession and improve the economic plight of teachers, early approval of this Bill is earnestly requested.