

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

H. No. 5751



Introduced By Representative Teofisto "TG" L. Guingona III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5(5), article XIV of the Constitution provides that, "[t]he State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education 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."

A cursory check with the Personnel Division of the Department of Education (DepEd) main office revealed that the basic monthly salary of the lowest-ranking teacher, that of Teacher I amounts to P9,939.00, while the highest-ranking teacher, that of Secondary School Principal IV gets a maximum basic salary of P22,003.00. However, for teachers who are stuck in public elementary schools, the highest rank they can get is Elementary School Principal IV, with a maximum basic monthly salary of P19,959.00. This has been the case since 2001 -- the last time there was a salary increase for teaching and non-teaching personnel of DepEd.

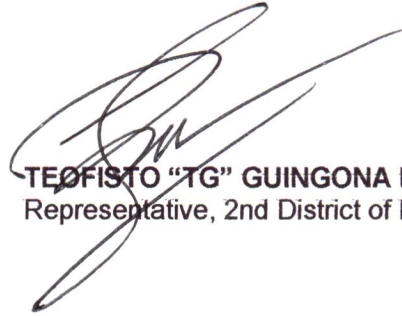
From 2001 until now, significant increases have taken place in the cost per liter of oil, cost per kilogram of liquefied petroleum gas, inflation rate, fares in different modes of public transportation, or in short, a significant increase in the cost of living in the past 5 years, yet zero increase in the income of our public elementary and secondary school teachers.

Citing a World Bank study, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, reported in June this year that the role of teachers is considered as the "single most influential factor" behind a student's performance. By neglecting the plight of our teachers, is it of any wonder then that the state of the country's education is becoming more and more alarming?

Short of advocating for a salary increase for teachers, which may not yet be doable at this time, this bill proposes to grant non-monetary incentives or income-extenders in the form of tuition and matriculation fee exemption for their children enrolled in state universities and colleges, a 25% price discount in the price per kilo of rice or corn bought directly from the National Food Authority or its authorized agents or outlets, a GSIS loan interest rate 3% lower than the regular rate, and preference in securing educational loans for their children enrolled in private institutions from the Study Now Pay Later Plan. These income-extenders, is not in any way intended to favor any form of a welfare State. Rather, these very small and simple income extenders are being put forth as an interim solution due the State's current inability to adequately remunerate our teachers.

These income extenders may be small and simple, yet these may be instrumental in putting back some respectability and honor in the teaching profession, and put some flesh in the above-cited Constitutional mandate.

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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line and a diagonal stroke.

TEOFILO "TG" GUINGONA III
Representative, 2nd District of Bukidnon

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AN ACT
PROVIDING INCOME EXTENDERS
TO PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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 Public Elementary and Secondary School Teachers' Income Extenders Act of 2006."

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State, in conformity with the mandate of the Constitution, to assist public elementary and secondary school teachers in coping with economic realities in order to attract and retain them in the teaching profession and to help ensure that they enjoy a standard of living worthy of their status as teachers.

Section 3. *Income Extenders.* – Public elementary and secondary school teachers in the active service shall enjoy the following income extenders:

- a) Exemption from paying tuition and matriculation fees for their children attending state colleges and universities;
- b) Price discount of twenty-five (25%) of the price per kilo of rice and/ or corn bought directly from the National Food Authority (NFA) or its authorized agents or market outlets;
- c) Loan interest rates lower by at least three percent (3%) than that normally charged by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in any loan obtained from the said institution; and
- d) Preference in securing educational loans for their children, who are enrolled in private institutions, from the Study Now, Pay Later Plan instituted by Republic Act Nos. 6014 and 6728.

Section 4. *Availing of Income Extenders.* -- The presentation by the public elementary or secondary school teacher of his or her identification card to the person or office concerned shall be sufficient and the latter shall provide the extenders availed of.

Section 5. *Liabilities.* — Any person who refuses or fails to grant any of the extenders provided for in Section 3 hereof for which he or she is bound to give under this Act shall, upon conviction, pay a fine of not less than Two Thousand Pesos (2,000.00) nor more than Seven Thousand Pesos (P7,000.00) and, in addition to moral, nominal, temperate, liquidated and/ or exemplary damages that may be adjudicated by the court, shall also pay actual or compensatory damage equivalent to at least three times the pecuniary loss suffered by the aggrieved public elementary or secondary school teacher.

The same liabilities shall be imposed upon the President or appropriate officer of an agency or office which fails or refuses to grant the extenders provided under this Act for which the said agency or office is bound to give.

Section 6. *Rules and Regulations.* --- *The Department of Education (DepEd) in consultation with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), National Food Authority (NFA), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and other government agencies that the DepEd deems appropriate to consult, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within two (2) months from the effectivity thereof.*

Section 7. *Compliance Report.* --- *Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act and every first week of August thereafter, the DepEd, CHED, NFA and GSIS and other agencies concerned shall submit a report to both houses of Congress on their compliance with this Act.*

Section 8. *Separability Clause.* -- If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, no other provision hereof shall be affected thereby.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause.* -- All Acts, Decrees, or Laws inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and/ or modified accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the date of its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,