

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

H.B. NO 129

Introduced by **HON. AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide additional allowance and benefit to public elementary and secondary school teachers to be known as "Anti-Poverty Allowance". With the towering costs of gasoline, electricity, and other basic commodities, there is an imperative need to improve the economic plight of our public school teachers.

It is a constitutionally mandated principle of the State to 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. Moreover, the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers (R.A. 4670) provides that it is the duty of the State to promote and improve the social and economic status of public school teachers.

It is unfortunate however that, under the present pay scale of civil servants, public school teachers receive a minimum salary of only PhP10,933. Undeniably, our public school teachers can barely cope with the daily standard of living with such meager sum. Reliable surveys reveal that the typical family of a public school teacher lives below the Philippine poverty line. Ultimately, this bill aims to combat poverty among our public school teachers in order to uplift their dignity and that of the public teaching profession.

It is high time to increase our public teacher's salary considering that low teacher salaries prevent talented and intelligent individuals from both entering and staying in the profession. Some of our brightest and most talented teachers seek employment abroad where they are promised greater pay and benefits. Needless to state, increasing teacher's salaries is a key in attracting and retaining more high-quality educators in our public schools.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is requested.



AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA
2nd District, Albay

H.B. NO. _____ 129

Introduced by HON. AL FRANCIS C. BICHARA

**AN ACT INCREASING THE SALARY AND COMPENSATION OF PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS BY PROVIDING AN
ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCE TO BE KNOWN AS "ANTI-POVERTY
ALLOWANCE", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR SUCH
OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

Section 1. All public elementary and secondary school teachers are hereby granted Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) additional allowance per month, to be known as "Anti-Poverty Allowance". Such allowance shall be considered an additional compensation to their existing salary and benefits and shall be considered as part of their basic salary for the purpose of computing retirement benefits and bonuses to which they are entitled, in accordance with existing laws.

Section 2. For purposes of this Act, public elementary and secondary school teachers shall be understood to include the following:

- a) *Nationally-Funded Public School Teachers* which include persons engaged in:
(1) actual classroom teaching in public basic education; (2) teaching in alternative learning system (ALS); and (3) actual classroom teaching in the Philippine Science High School System.
- b) *Locally-Funded Teachers* which include public school teachers who are hired and paid for, fully or partially, by a local government unit or any other local entity in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by the Department of Education.

Provided however, that, *Locally-Funded Teachers* shall be included in the implementation of this Act only if the local government unit or local entity concerned has available funds therefor. Provided further, that, for the year following the implementation of this Act, the local government unit or local entity concerned shall provide funds needed for its effective implementation.

Section 3. Appropriations.—To immediately implement the provisions of this Act, the initial funding shall be sourced from the savings of the Executive Branch of the government and other possible sources that may be determined by the Office of the President, provided that, subsequent funds needed shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the year following the approval of this Act.

Section 4. Rules and Regulations.—The Secretary of Education shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 5. *Separability Clause.*—Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause.*—All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. *Effectivity.*—This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.