

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2791

Introduced by Representative Marlyn Primicias-Agabas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

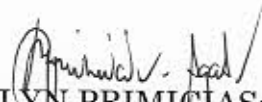
Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. Section 5(5), of the same Article also declares that the State shall 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 the other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment.

It cannot be denied that education is a vital consideration on which the development of our country depends. This should clearly include opportunities for teachers who play an essential role in delivering quality education and values formation among students.

The dedication and zeal of teachers especially in public schools does not only end at teaching but extends, as demonstrated in the recent automated elections and 2010 Census, to other national programs in which their participation was indeed a critical factor in spelling the success of such programs. Sadly, their plight remains bleak with a measly basic salary and lack of incentives for economic and learning advancement.

In view of the foregoing, it is then imperative for the government to provide our public school teachers additional benefits appropriate to their profession and needs. The proponent believes that this is an opportune time to recognize their efforts by providing a scholarship financial assistance program in state universities and colleges for dependents of public school teachers. This financial assistance will go a long way in promoting their economic welfare in light of the Constitutional mandate.

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


MARLYN PRIMICIAS-AGABAS
6th District, Pangasinan

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN STATE
UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES FOR DEPENDENTS OF PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the essential role of public school teachers in the delivery of quality education to students. For these purposes, the State shall provide for programs that will benefit not only the teachers but also their dependents.

SECTION 2. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as “Scholarship Assistance Program for Dependents of Public School Teachers Act of 2010.”

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, public school teachers shall mean all persons engaged in classroom teaching, in any level of instruction, on full-time basis, including guidance counselors, school librarians, industrial arts or vocational instructors, and all other persons performing supervisory and/or administrative functions in all schools, colleges and universities operated by the Government or its political subdivisions; but shall not include school nurses, school physicians, school dentists, and other school employees.

Dependent shall mean a legitimate, illegitimate child, or legally adopted child of the public school teacher as herein referred.

State universities and colleges (SUCs) shall mean those chartered public higher education institutions established by law, administered and financially subsidized by the government.

SECTION 4. *Form of Assistance.* – The Scholarship grant shall be in the form of financial assistance to cover one hundred percent (100%) of the total tuition and registration fees in an amount as the State University or College, where the dependent shall enroll, may determine as reasonable and necessary.

Only one (1) dependent for each qualified public school teacher may avail of the grant provided in this Act.

In case the dependent, at the time of the effectivity of this Act, already receives the same or similar benefit, or more than what is provided herein, he or she shall be entitled to that grant which is more beneficial to the dependent.

SECTION 5. *Qualifications for Dependents.* – No dependent shall be granted the scholarship unless he or she possesses the following qualifications:

- (1) He or she must be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines;
- (2) He or she must be of excellent moral character and unquestionable integrity; and
- (3) Must have qualified for admission to the university or college as well as to the course the dependent intends to enroll.

SECTION 6. *Other Qualifications.* – In order for dependents of public school teachers to benefit from this Act, the latter must possess the following qualifications:

- (1) He or she must be of excellent moral character and unquestionable integrity;
- (2) Must be in good standing and in the service at the time of the application and until the dependent shall finish the course, except for those having fulfilled the age and service requirements of the applicable retirement laws in which case the dependent shall be allowed to continue until he or she shall finish the course; and
- (3) Must not have been convicted of any crime punishable with more than six (6) years of imprisonment.

SECTION 7. *Assistance to Retired Public School Teachers.* – Dependents of public school teachers who have already retired upon the effectivity of this Act may avail the Scholarship grant in the form of financial assistance to cover fifty percent (50%) of the total tuition and registration fees in an amount as the State University or College, where the dependent shall enroll, may determine as reasonable and necessary.

Only one (1) dependent for each retired public school teacher may avail of the grant provided in this Act.

SECTION 8. *Program Implementation.* – For purposes of this Act, the Commission on Higher Education in coordination with the Department of Education shall prescribe the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the Scholarship Assistance Program within ninety (90) days upon the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the

Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be provided for its operation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation to the contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,