

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Fifteenth Congress

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3768

**Introduced by REP. MARY MITZI "MITCH" L. CAJAYON
and REP. EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

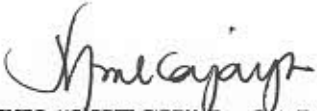
Section 5 (5), Article XIV of the Constitution provides that "The State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment."

Consistent with the aforesaid mandate, this proposal seeks to provide automatic appropriation for education which shall be equivalent to six percent (6%) of the gross national product (GNP) based on the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Delors Benchmark for developing nations.

Rep. Carlos M. Padilla of the Lone District, Nueva Vizcaya originally made this proposal during the 14th Congress of the Philippines. As per verification with the Bills and Index Service (BIS) Online Query of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations referred the bill to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to solicit its position on the matter. However, the DBM did not come up with the needed comments and observations that could have facilitated the deliberations on this noble proposal.

Hence, this important piece of legislation is being refiled in order to allow full and dispassionate discussion with the end view of championing the cause of education in the country that is now disappointingly lagging behind its Asian neighbors and to promote the right of every Filipino to quality education and to make such education accessible to all.

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


MARY MITZI "MITCH" L. CAJAYON
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EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY
Alliance of Volunteer Educators

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AN ACT
PROVIDING AUTOMATIC APPROPRIATION FOR EDUCATION WHICH SHALL BE
EQUIVALENT TO AT LEAST SIX PERCENT (6%) OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT
(GNP), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1177, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS "THE BUDGET REFORM DECREE OF 1977"

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

SECTION 1. Section 31 of Presidential Decree No. 1177 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 31. *Automatic Appropriations.* - All expenditures for (a) personnel retirement premiums, government service insurance, and other similar fixed expenditures, (b) principal and interest on public debt, (c) national government guarantees of obligations which are drawn upon, AND (D) EDUCATION EQUIVALENT TO AT LEAST SIX PERCENT (6%) OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT (GNP), are automatically appropriated: provided, that no obligations shall be incurred or payments made from funds thus automatically appropriated except as issued in the form of regular budgetary allotments.

SEC. 2. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act *is* hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,