

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4254

Introduced by Kabataan Party-List Representative Raymond V. Palatino

EXPLANATORY NOTE

We would often refer to teaching as the noblest profession, accompanied as it is by sacrifices and difficulties that up to this day remain unaddressed. Foremost in the long list of problems that burden our public school teachers is the low and insufficient pay that they receive—an insult to a profession regarded as a vital contributor to our nation's growth. To be specific, a new teacher in public schools today receives a monthly pay of only P15,649 (\$348), an amount that is barely enough to meet the demands of everyday living.

The measly amount that public school teachers take home despite the important services they render to our country has discouraged those who harbor dreams of becoming educators in public educational institutions. While thousands take education courses each year, they easily set their eyes on private schools where salaries are relatively higher and benefits are much more attractive. Many try their hand in public schools but only for the purpose of obtaining a teaching experience that could help them land a teaching job abroad. As such, they miss on the opportunity to teach underprivileged students who cannot afford the education offered at private learning institutions and who deserve to be educated above everyone else.

It is thus both ironic and enraging that public school teachers face difficulty in bringing their children to school. Given that our education system remains to be highly commercialized and inaccessible to many underprivileged sectors, the gargantuan and daunting task of sending children to school has been too burdensome for many Filipinos, our public school teachers included. It is important to note that apart from food, rent and transportation, education still accounts for a huge percentage of a Filipino family's total spending, according to the latest Family Income and Expenditure Survey. In order to cope with the demands of everyday living, our public school

teachers, as with many other Filipinos, end up in a life of financial indebtedness. That explains the stereotype ascribed to our public school teachers: our teachers who sell skinless longganisa, our teachers who sell electronic cellphone load, our teachers who always carry with them brochures of beauty products for merchandise.

This measure proposes additional incentives to public school teachers who have children to be raised and educated. It seeks to at least free public school teachers from the responsibility of sending their first born child to college. This incentive, apart from encouraging the youth to teach in public learning institutions, would also serve as recognition and appreciation for the invaluable contribution of our public educators to our country. Beyond this measure, it is hoped that our government would address the fundamental problems that contribute to the economic distress of our public school teachers. For instance, the enactment of House Bill 2142, which mandates and increase in salary grade level of public school teachers from Salary Grade 11 to Salary Grade 15, should be included in the government's priorities. Only when our teachers are liberated from their harsh economic conditions can education truly serve its rightful purpose.

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

Adopted,


HON. RAYMOND V. PALATINO
Representative, Kabataan Party-list

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AN ACT
PROVIDING TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO THE FIRST-BORN CHILD OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Public School Teachers’*
2 *First-Born Scholarship Act.*”
3

4 **SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to promote and
5 improve the social and economic status of public school teachers by providing them with
6 additional benefits to help them in the education of their children, and further encouraging
7 prospective teachers to join the public school system. For this purpose, the State shall
8 provide tertiary scholarship to the legitimate first-born children of public school teachers.
9

10 **SECTION 3.** *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms shall mean:

- 11 a) *Public school teacher* refers to any person engaged in classroom teaching, in any
12 level of instruction, on full-time or part-time basis, including guidance counsellors,
13 school librarians, industrial arts or vocational instructors, and other persons
14 performing supervisory or administrative functions in all schools, colleges and
15 universities operated by the Government or its political subdivisions but shall not
16 include school nurses, physicians, dentists, and similar school employees;

1 b) *Legitimate first-born child* shall include legally adopted children of public school
2 teachers.

3 c) *Tertiary scholarship grant* refers to free college education in all public schools
4 including in state colleges and universities to cover tuition fee, book allowance and
5 monthly stipend.
6

7 **SECTION 4. *Scholarship Grant.*** – There shall be provided a full scholarship grant for the
8 first-born legitimate child of public school teachers who are in active service. The grant
9 shall cover tuition and other fees needed for tertiary education in all public schools and state
10 colleges and universities throughout the country: *Provided,* That the first-born child of
11 public school teachers shall be qualified to avail of the scholarship grant upon passing all
12 the documentary and admission requirements set by the schools.
13

14 **SECTION 5. *Continuity of the Grant.*** – First-born children of the public school teachers
15 shall continue to enjoy the scholarship grant even if the parent has retired or has legally
16 been separated from the service due to death, illness, sickness or physical incapacity.
17

18 **SECTION 6. *Forfeiture of Grant.*** – First-born children shall forfeit the scholarship grant
19 when a parent who is a public school teacher has been convicted by final judgment of
20 criminal and administrative offenses or such parent has ceased to become a public school
21 teacher due to unlawful causes.
22

23 **SECTION 7. *Appropriation.*** – The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos
24 (P100,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated to constitute as the initial first-born scholarship
25 fund to be administered by the Commission on Higher Education. Thereafter, such amount
26 necessary for its continued operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
27 Act.
28

29 **SECTION 8. *Implementing Agency.*** – The chairman of the Commission on Higher
30 Education shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of
31 this Act.

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2 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
3 in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted,