

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HB No. 5410



Introduced by Hon. Christopher S. Co, Hon. Rodel M. Batocabe, and Hon. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate business establishments to grant discount privileges to public school teachers whose earning capabilities are adversely affected by the present economic situation in our country. They have been given little attention as far as their protection, security and the upliftment of their physical and social well-being by the government. The worldwide economic crisis, high unemployment rate, soaring prices of basic commodities have severely strained the capacity of the public school teachers to provide a decent and dignified living necessitating the assistance and cooperation of the state.

As provided in the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, 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 fulfilment. [Article 14, Section 5(5)].

The bill seeks to grant special benefits and privileges to the public school teachers such as, among others, discounts in transportation fares, health services, hotels, restaurant, and recreational facilities through the coordination and cooperation of government with public and private entities. The imperative need to render assistance to the public school teachers is not only in keeping with the social justice provision of the Constitution to help them hurdle the economic hardships of the times but also a fervent manifestation of our gratitude for all the services and sacrifices experienced by them for the country.

In light of these circumstances, the swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Hon. Christopher S. Co

Hon. Rodel M. Batocabe

Hon. Alfredo A. Garbin, Jr.

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**AN ACT GRANTING DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES AND OTHER BENEFITS TO
PUBLIC 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. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to give priority to the needs of the public school teachers. Toward this end, it shall adopt a program that shall uplift their social well-being and make essential goods, health, recreational and other social services and facilities available to them at affordable cost.

SEC. 2. Definition of terms. – When used in this Act, the term –

Public School teacher refers to a Filipino citizen who is a permanent resident of the Philippines, is an employee of the Department of Education, whether permanent, temporary, casual or contractual.

SEC. 3. Public transport facilities. – All government-owned controlled corporations or private entities owning, operating or managing public transport facilities, whether land, sea or air, shall give priority to the public school teachers, and provide them with at least twenty percent (20%) discount on all transportation fares within the Philippines.

SEC. 4. Health Services. – The public school teachers shall also be entitled to a discount of at least twenty percent (20%) on fees or charges for hospital, medical and dental services rendered by public and private medical institutions and practitioners.

Drugstores and drug companies shall extend to the public school teachers a discount of not less than twenty percent (20%) on the cost of medicines and supplemental vitamins, as prescribed by a registered medical or dental practitioner.

SEC. 5. Hotels, Lodging houses, restaurants and eateries. – The public school teachers shall be granted a minimum discount of twenty percent (20%) on rentals for lodging in hotels, motels, inns, pension or other lodging houses and on the cost of food served in cafes, cafeterias, refreshment parlors, restaurants, soda fountain bars, carinderias, or food caterers, and other similar establishments.

SEC. 6. Recreational facilities. – A minimum of twenty percent (20%) discount on admission fees charged by theatres, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, carnivals and other similar places of amusement shall be granted to the public school teachers.

SEC. 7. Physical fitness facilities. – Any hospital, gym, or other facility offering physical fitness programs shall extend services to the public school teachers at a twenty percent (20%) discount.

SEC. 8. Loans From Government Institutions. – Government lending institutions shall give priority to the public school teachers in the grant of loans intended to provide capital for or to finance a livelihood and other income-generating projects, and other immediate needs in case of emergency, subject to banking rules and regulations.

SEC. 9. Limitations on discount privileges and other benefits. – The discount privileges and other benefits mentioned in this Act shall apply only to the personal account of the public school teacher in payment for services and goods actually used by him or her. These shall in no case extend to his or her relatives or companions who are not qualified beneficiaries under this Act.

SEC. 10. Registration of the public school teachers. – A public school teacher who qualifies under this Act and who wishes to avail of the discount privileges and other benefits provided herein shall be required to present his or her identification card issued by the Department of Education every time the privilege is availed of by the public school teacher to the agency, association, company or individual who granted the discount.

SEC. 11. Deductions from Taxable Income. The amount of discounts granted in pursuance of this Act shall be allowed as deductions in the computation of taxable income by the public or private entities and individual granting the discount; Provided however, that tax deductions shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of its taxable income; Provided further, that the tax deduction under this section shall be evidenced by copies of the ID cards presented by the public school teachers as provided in this Act.

SEC. 12. Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Education, in coordination with the other concerned government agencies and in consultation with associations of public school teachers and non-government organizations addressing the needs of the public school teachers shall issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 13. Penalties. – Any person who refuses to extend the privileges and benefits granted under this Act to a public school teacher entitled thereto after request and proper identification or who unduly takes advantage of any such privileges or benefits, or who violates any of the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act, shall suffer the penalty of prison correccional or a fine of not less than five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) nor more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

In case the offender is a corporation, cooperative, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the president, manager or officers thereof who had knowingly permitted or were otherwise responsible for the commission of the offense. If it can be shown that such refusal to grant discount privileges is a corporate decision, all the members of the board shall be held liable.

In case of a succeeding offense, the penalties of both imprisonment and fine shall be imposed in the maximum period. In addition thereto, such shall be sufficient cause for the immediate cancellation of the professional license or permit to operate the business or medical establishment.

SEC. 14. Separability clause. – Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions unaffected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 15. Repealing clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect 30 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,