

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 441



Introduced by
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Representative Antonio L. Tinio

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Since the enactment of the *Magna Carta for Public School Teachers* in 1966 (Republic Act 4670), the state has been mandated to promote and improve the economic status of public school teachers and their living and working conditions. However, as it is a largely unfunded law, teachers have been waiting in vain for the benefits intended to somehow ease their hardships. During the deliberations for the 2011 budget, officials from the Department of Education admitted having their hands tied—many *Magna Carta* benefits cannot be promptly and regularly granted to teachers because of the perennial budget shortfall. These benefits are denied them, simply because of lack of funds.

This bill seeks to meet the avowed policy of the *Magna Carta* by uplifting the economic condition of teachers, through the provision of a non-wage benefit in the form of free tuition and other fees for their dependent children who are admitted to public post-secondary education institutions. By shouldering this cost, the government shall provide substantial economic relief for teachers, give due recognition for their dedication and hard work, and enhance the status of the teaching profession. A similar intention is behind the comparable benefit given to barangay officials since 1991 in the *Local Government Code* (Republic Act 7160), but the coverage mandated in this bill is broader in that it provides free education in not only state universities and colleges but also public technical and vocational schools.

For these reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO L. TINIO

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AN ACT
GRANTING FREE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
AND PUBLIC TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF PUBLIC
ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

SECTION 1. Public elementary and high school teachers shall be exempt from paying tuition and all other fees for one (1) dependent child attending any state university or college, or public technical or vocational schools under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; *Provided* that, should both spouses be public school teachers, the exemption shall apply to two (2) dependent children; *Provided* further that the children meet the minimum requirements of the educational institutions in which they are admitted.

SECTION 2. The Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority shall jointly promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. All other laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,