

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 626



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KIMI S. COJUANGCO

Explanatory Note

The proposed measure aims to improve the quality of public school education by hiring those that are truly qualified for the job. This is made possible with the Independent Proficiency Assessment system where the Department of Education will call upon the College of Education of the University of the Philippines to administer a test to all those applying for the position of public school teacher. Only those that pass the test, which will be determined by the University of the Philippines, will be included in the division-wide rank list of applicants for the position. This ensures that the Filipino learners will be receiving quality education from qualified teachers as well as protect the system from corrupt practices, personal biases and personal favors, which are often times politically motivated. Safeguards have been included against those that plan and possibly will alter or hinder the results.

This system of testing applicants has already been done in the town of Sison, Pangasinan where I served as mayor before I became Congresswoman. As a result of my decision to conduct this assessment before hiring teachers, the quality of education in the town began to rise.

It is no mystery what the state of public education in the Philippines is and the way to fix it is to make sure that the Filipinos are given the best possible education by qualified teachers. Just like in the town of Sison, if this system is implemented nationwide then there in turn will be a nationwide rise in the quality of public school education. In the end, it is the youth of our country who will benefit from this bill. We not owe it to them to fulfill the right given by the Constitution to quality education. It is through this bill that their right is served.

In view of the above, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


HON. KIMI S. COJUANGCO

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 626

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE KIMI S. COJUANGCO

AN ACT
REQUIRING AN INDEPENDENT PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT IN THE
APPOINTMENT AND HIRING OF TEACHERS FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY LEVELS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Title - This Act shall be known as the "Independent Proficiency Assessment for Applicant Teachers Act of 2013."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality basic education by providing all Filipino learners with the most qualified, competent and highly skilled teachers whose appointment should be based on merit and fitness.

It shall be one of the primordial goals of basic education to eliminate mediocrity in instruction by instituting a system that will ensure that only quality teachers and those who have the potential to be leaders in education be allowed to occupy the basic teaching positions in public elementary and secondary education.

SEC. 3. Objectives. – This Act aims to attain the following objectives:

- 1) To ensure that only the most qualified of applicants and those who have the potential to be leaders in education are given the positions of teacher. By requiring all applicants to take and, more importantly, pass the "Independent Proficiency Assessment", we are ensuring that our teachers are the best they can be.

- 2) To remove corruption from the system of choosing teachers by removing personal biases and favors from the picture.
- 3) To provide Filipino learners with quality education by guaranteeing that only those applicants who have passed the "Independent Proficiency Assessment" and are truly qualified to fill the role of teacher.
- 4) To ensure that schools are equipped with the most capable of teachers therefore ensuring that all schools are able to provide top quality education to all its students regardless of background.
- 5) To provide all Filipino learners equal opportunities at quality education by ensuring that all schools are staffed by truly capable and qualified teachers.
- 6) To aid in the government's goal of providing top quality education to all Filipino learners by ensuring all students are taught by qualified and well trained teachers.

SEC. 4. Independent Proficiency Assessment for Applicant Teachers. - There is hereby established a system to be known as the "Independent Proficiency Assessment for Applicant Teachers" which all applicants for teaching positions in public elementary and secondary levels must undergo and pass before they may be included in the Registry of Qualified Applicants and in the division-wide ranklist to be prepared by the Division Selection Committee organized by the School Division Superintendent pursuant to DepED Order No. 20, series of 2009.

SEC. 5. Implementation - The College of Education of the University of the Philippines shall be the lead agency responsible for the conduct of the Independent Proficiency Assessment for Applicant Teachers, and shall be tasked with the preparation of the rules of the examination, its method, type, coverage, planning and dissemination.

It may also engage the services of a reputable and independent testing center duly accredited by it, which shall serve to assist in the proper and efficient implementation or administration of the proficiency test. In all cases, such testing center/s shall be under the direct control and supervision of the lead agency.

SEC. 6. Appointment and Hiring of Teachers - No applicant for teaching positions in public elementary and secondary levels shall be appointed and hired unless he or she is included in the Registry of Qualified Applicants and in the district-wide ranklist of applicants as provided in Section 3 hereof, after successfully passing the proficiency

assessment conducted by the College of Education of the University of the Philippines or any of its accredited independent testing centers.

SEC. 7. Rules and Regulations – The Department of Education, in coordination with the College of Education of the University of the Philippines, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Penal Provision. - Any person who shall willfully alter, modify, or tamper with the true and correct results of the proficiency assessment, or shall, in any manner, obstruct, prevent, delay, or hinder the release thereof, for the purpose of giving undue advantage to an applicant or applicants, or shall suppress any of the objectives of this Act, will, after being convicted by a competent court, be liable to pay a fine of fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) or to suffer an imprisonment of six months but not more than two years or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be made chargeable against the budget of the Department of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums deemed necessary for the continued and effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. – If for any reason, any portion or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the official gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,