

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2132



INTRODUCED BY REP. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The teaching profession is a fulfilling, and at the same time, a demanding one. It is referred to as a calling, since much is expected from educators and only a handful of individuals heed such call. Aside from good interpersonal skills necessary in dealing with children other than their own, teachers are also expected to devote a great deal of their time and attention in preparing lessons and instructional materials, and calculating grades. On top of other responsibilities that come with being educators, they have to contend with financial troubles as well, since most of the time the remuneration is not commensurate with the requirements of the job.

Aware of the State's responsibilities of providing incentives to teachers as well as in recognition of their dedicated service, this bill seeks to provide additional benefits to dependents of public school teachers, such as (1) free medical examination and treatment; (2) free tuition when enrolled in any state college or university or public vocational or technical school; and (3) monthly pension as compensation in case of injury and sickness sustained by teachers.

Thus, in view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING BENEFITS TO DEPENDENTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670 OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

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

SECTION 1. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following shall mean:

a) "Qualified Dependents" refer to one or more legitimate recognized natural or adopted children living with or dependent upon the teacher for their chief support where such children are not more than twenty-one (21) years of age, unmarried and not gainfully employed, or where such children, regardless of age incapable of self-support because of physical defect.

(b) "Teacher" is any person engaged in classroom, in any level of instruction, on a full-time basis, including guidance counselors, school librarians, industrial arts or vocational instructors, and all other persons performing supervisory and/or administrative functions in all schools, colleges and universities operated by the Government or its political subdivision; but shall not include school nurses, school physicians, school dentists, and other school employees.

SEC. 2. Section 22 of Republic Act No. 4670, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 22. *Medical Examination and Treatment.* - Compulsory medical examination shall be provided free of charge for all teachers before they take up teaching, and shall be repeated not less than once a year during the teacher's professional life. Where medical examination show that medical treatment and/or hospitalization is necessary, same shall be provided free by the government entity paying the salary of the teachers."

"QUALIFIED DEPENDENTS OF TEACHERS SHALL ALSO AVAIL OF THE SAME BENEFITS AS LONG AS THE TEACHER IS IN ACTIVE SERVICE."

SEC. 3. *Educational Benefits.* - In addition to all other benefits to which teachers are entitled under existing laws, rules and regulations, their children, not exceeding four (4) shall be eligible to enter any state college and university or state vocational or technical school to pursue any bachelor's degree preferably in science and technology courses, of any vocational or technical course free charge including but not limited to tuition and matriculation fees.

SEC. 4. *Eligibility.* - The dependents of the teachers must meet the academic requirements for admission to subject state college or university, vocational or technical school.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Educational Skills Development Authority (TESDA)

shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of the aforementioned sections.

SEC. 6. Section 23 of Republic Act No. 4670, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 23. *Compensation for Injuries.* - Teachers shall be protected against the consequences of employment injuries in accordance with existing laws. The effects of the physical and nervous strain on the teacher's health shall be recognized as a compensable occupational disease in accordance with existing laws.

"IN CASES OF PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY DUE TO WORK-RELATED SICKNESS OR INJURY WHERE THE TEACHER HAD BEEN IN SERVICE FOR FIVE (5) YEARS, THE DEPENDENTS ARE ENTITLED TO A MONTHLY PENSION OF AT LEAST FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P 5,000.00)

"IN CASES OF PERMANENT TOTAL DISABILITY DUE TO WORK-RELATED SICKNESS OR INJURY WHERE THE TEACHER HAD BEEN IN SERVICE FOR FIVE (5) YEARS, THE DEPENDENTS ARE ENTITLED TO A MONTHLY PENSION OF AT LEAST EIGHT HUNDRED PESOS (P 800.00)

"THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WILL HANDLE THE DISTRIBUTION OF PENSION BENEFITS TO THE DEPENDENTS OF TEACHERS."

SEC. 7. Section 27 of the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers is hereby amended to be read as:

"Sec. 27. *Freedom to Organize.* - Public school teachers shall have the right to freely and without previous authorization both to establish and to join organizations of their choosing, whether local or national to further and defend their interests."

"THE FORMATION OF COOPERATIVES RUN BY TEACHERS AND DEPENDENTS OF TEACHERS IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY IS ENCOURAGED. SUCH COOPERATIVE SHALL PROVIDE CREDIT AND SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS LIVELIHOOD TRAINING PROGRAMS."

"THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) WILL GIVE THE APPROPRIATE TRAINING PROGRAMS TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE TEACHERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS."

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - 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. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,