

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 3375

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

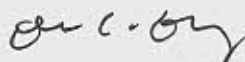
Teachers play a very important role in our society. They are a very crucial facet thereto as they are one of the people and/or institutions responsible for the rearing and the training of our youth. They see to it that their students, regardless of their station in life, turn into competent, intelligent and principled individuals.

What the Filipino children learn from their teachers will most likely carry on for the rest of their lives. It is in this way that teachers influence the young generation who in turn are expected to become great leaders and vigilant, responsible and well-informed citizens of this country in the near future. Hence, it is but proper that teachers be afforded great opportunities to expand their knowledge and better their expertise on subject matters that they teach and impart to their students.

Granting our public school teachers scholarships to pursue graduate studies serve both as a reward and a tool that benefits not only our hardworking and dedicated educators but also the nation as a whole in that producing well-educated and highly-qualified teachers will necessarily and inevitably result in better learning for the Filipino Youth.

With the fast paced globalization that is happening, the Philippines need to stay competitive in the world. For this to happen, it is very vital that we produce brilliant and able citizens. As we all know, competency and skills are greatly honed in schools and such training start as early as the elementary level. For our educational institutions to produce great minds and great talents, the teachers and trainers thereof must be top calibre as well, for what they know they will surely impart. And one way to ensure that our educators become and remain excellent in their field is to afford them higher education in the form of graduate programs.

It is for this reason that the approval of this Bill is being sought.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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**“AN ACT PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS TO PURSUE GRADUATE STUDIES”**

Section 1. Name. This Act shall be known as the Public School Teachers’ Scholarship Act.

Section 2. Definition of Terms.

Teacher-scholar – pertains to a public school teacher who successfully qualified for the scholarship and has pursued any graduate course in accordance with this Act.

Continuing eligibility – pertains to any program that provides qualification and eligibility to teachers through scholarship programs for graduate courses.

Graduate courses – for purposes of this Act, graduate courses shall pertain to masteral or doctorate programs.

Section 3. Creation of the Teacher's Scholarship Committee. A Teacher's Scholarship Committee is hereby created to process and grant scholarship applications to deserving and qualified public school teachers. The said committee shall be under the Department of Education. The duties of the said Committee shall be, among others, the following, to wit:

- manage the screening and selection process of the applicants.
- manage and account for the budget and/or fund allocated for the purpose of this Act.
- discuss outcomes, issues, finances, procedures or policy in relation to scholarships and
- ensure that minuted proceedings of the committee provide a basis for specific and constructive feedback to applicants.

Section 4. Eligibility. An applicant is eligible to apply for a scholarship under this Act, provided he or she meets the following criteria:

- a. the applicant must be currently employed as a teacher in a public school, elementary or high school, and have been employed as such for an aggregate of at least five years, whether continuous or otherwise.
- b. the applicant must not have received another scholarship to pursue graduate studies from other institutions or personalities.

Section 5. Application. Any eligible teacher as provided in this Act may apply for a Scholarship to pursue graduate studies by submitting a completely filled out application form along with the other pertinent documents that the Selection Committee may require.

Section 6. Qualifying Examination. After submitting the application form and other required documents, every applicant must take and pass the Qualifying Examination that will be conducted by the Selection Committee. For purposes of this Act, the passing rate must be eighty (80) percent of the total number of items.

Section 7. Result of the Application and Acceptance Thereof. Decisions made by the committee are final. Successful applicants are required to formally accept the offer within two week from the time they were formally notified by mail that they qualified for the scholarship.

Section 8. Continuing Eligibility. Once accepted under this program, the teacher-scholar must continue to serve as a bona fide public school teacher while pursuing his or her graduate studies. Voluntary resignation, abandonment of work, or removal from service for valid causes of the teacher-scholar shall cause the forfeiture of the scholarship under this Act.

Section 9. Commitment to Teach in the Country. The successful teacher-scholar must be committed to continue teaching in the Philippines in the next ten years after completing or obtaining a masteral or doctorate degree under this Act, or in the event that the applicant did not complete the course, in the next four years after his or her last semester thereat. In the event that

they will resign for whatever reason, the teacher-scholar must reimburse the cost of the scholarship to the extent that it benefited him or her.

Section 10. Accredited Graduate Studies. The Teacher's Scholarship Committee shall release a list of accredited masteral and/or doctorate courses which the applicants under this Act may choose from. The courses, to be accredited, must be of the nature that:

- (1) supports their work as a teacher;
- (2) aligns with the priorities of our Education System as determined by Dep-Ed; or
- (3) of the nature that will benefit the students' learning.

Section 11. Scope of the Scholarship. The scholarship consists of:

- Tuition for every semester until the teacher-scholar finishes the entire accredited course, provided that he or she completes the same in accordance with the regular curriculum of the college or university where he or she is enrolled. Tuition and other fees incurred in extended semesters will not be covered by this Act if such extension or delay is due to the fault or shortcoming of the teacher-scholar.
- Monthly stipend in the amount of P10,000.00.

The Scholarship under this Act will not cover:

- Short courses
- Courses that are not accredited by the DepEd or CHED
- Conferences, Seminars, and analogous events.

Section 12. Obligation of Scholarship Recipients. By accepting a scholarship, the teacher-scholar shall fulfil the following obligations:

- Provide evidence of successful completion of the agreed course or stage of the course, as well as paid receipts for fees, in submitting reimbursement requests every year.
- Notify the Commission of any change to work location or personal details that will affect the status and continuing eligibility of the teacher-scholar.
- Undertake a professional sharing occasion with colleagues or staff working in the Directorate during or after your studies.

Section 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Education shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon their publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Section 14. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

Section 15. Separability Clause. – In the event that any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared

unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 15. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,