



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5483**



Introduced by Honorable Erlinda M. Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare October 5 of every year as National Teachers' Day and providing special privileges to all teachers all over the Philippines.

To quote Mr. Christopher Maboloc, a teacher of Philosophy at the Ateneo de Davao University, *"The right thing to do, in this regard, is to upgrade the quality of education in all schools in the country. Obviously, this cannot be attained by simply revamping the curriculum. You have to give teachers, public and private schools, enough motivation and the kind of respect that they deserve by improving their pay."* In this essence, other than the adjustment of remuneration, additional or special privileges for teachers serve as motivating factors to sustain the passion and drive of the teachers.

As educators, teachers play a vital role in our education system. They shape the competence and character of the Filipino youth. Their invaluable contributions in molding the values and character of the young generation cannot be underestimated and their unwavering service, commitment and support to make educational system at par with the global educational standards are truly recognizable.

Since 1994, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared October 5 of every year as "World Teachers' Day" with the aim of mobilizing support for teachers and ensuring that the needs of future generations will continue to be addressed by the teachers. The World Teachers' Day represents the awareness, understanding and appreciation for the vital contribution that teachers make in the education and development of our youth.

To generate widespread awareness for the "World Teachers' Day," President Benigno S. Aquino III issued Proclamation No. 242, dated August 24, 2011, declaring the period from 05 September to 05 October of every year as "National Teachers' Month." Proclamation No. 242 seeks to revitalize the image of teaching as a vocation by increasing awareness on the value of teachers in Philippine society and national development. The National Teachers' Month highlights the central role that teachers play in guiding our youth through the life-long learning process.

This bill declaring October 5 of every year as National Teachers' Day will give meaning to our gratitude and appreciation for the valuable service of all teachers, both active and retired, and assure them of special privileges for their unique role priceless contribution in guiding families and strengthening communities.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ERLINDA M. SANTIAGO



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**AN ACT
DECLARING OCTOBER 5 OF EVERY YEARE AS NATIONAL
TEACHERS' DAY AND PROVIDING SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO
ALL TEACHERS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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

SECTION 1. October 5 of every year is declared as the National Teachers' Day in the Philippines to celebrate the central role of teachers in guiding the children, youth and adults through the life-long learning process.

For purposes of this Act "*teacher*" refers to all persons engaged in classroom teaching, in any level of instruction, on full-time basis, including guidance counselors, school librarians, industrial arts or vocational instructors and all other persons performing supervisor or administrative functions in all schools, colleges and universities, public or private, but does not include school nurses, school physicians, school dentists and other school employees.

SEC. 2. In celebrating the National Teachers' Day, teachers are entitled to the following privileges:

- a) Free transportation services on the use of Mass Rail Transit, Light Rail Transit and Philippine National Railways;
- b) Free use of lodging establishment or housing camp owned by the government located in any place of the country; and
- c) Grant of twenty percent (20%) discount from establishments such as restaurant, bookstore, department stores, theaters, cinemas, museum, parks, and similar places.

SEC. 3. In the availment of the privileges, the teachers may present any of the following:

- 1) A valid certificate of registration and a valid professional license issued by the Professional Regulation Commission;
- 2) Identification Card issued by the schools, colleges, universities or any educational institutions; and
- 3) Other documents such as Government Service Insurance System membership card, Social Security System card or teachers' association or organization membership card.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall, in coordination with the Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government and the Secretary of Transportation and Communications, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,