

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City
17th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3959



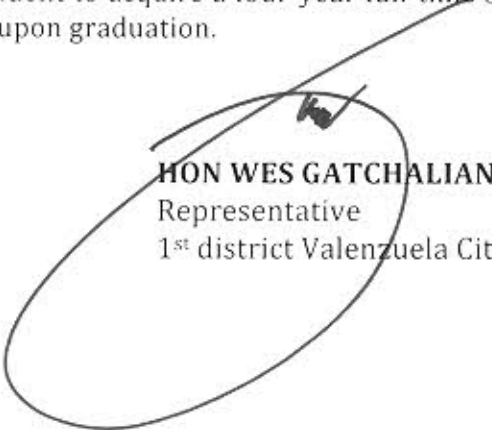
Introduced by Representative Wes Gatchalian

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan." are words uttered not only as a statement of fact, but more so as an embodiment of an undying hope. A hope that a day would come where a generation of Filipinos would stand with dignity, certain of his place among his neighbors and the rest of the world. More than five score years have gone by, and those words remain only but a whisper of a hope, with the Filipino still playing catch up, left in the dust of its neighbors who has since sucked the limitless marrow of progress. By enacting this bill, the hope is to reach every Filipino with the best quality of education that he can get such that collectively the generations to come would per capita, be armed with the competence required to drive this country forward. It is therefore proposed that a scholarship program with a direct hire clause be established for all aspiring teachers in the country.

A UNESCO report recently showed that the Philippines, among other countries, failed to reach its Year 2015 targets on the Millennium Development Goals of Education for All. One of the goals set is for our country to Improve on the Quality of our Education. To overcome the systematic inequalities in learning across the country, one of the modes recognized is by allocating the best teachers to the most challenging parts of our country. One of the hindrances to doing this is the evident lack in manpower available to the Department of Education. In a recent statement, the department has indicated that it lacks at least fifteen thousand (15 000) teachers to supply the needs of the country. This bill is drafted to respond to the need to provide more teachers in the rural areas where there is seemingly a dearth in good teachers that arises.

It is envisioned that by establishing a scholarship program for deserving students who wants to pursue a career in teaching, the government shall be developing highly qualified educators to serve in the remote rural areas of our country. The incentive is for the student to acquire a four-year full-time scholarship and the security of an employment upon graduation.


HON WES GATCHALIAN
Representative
1st district Valenzuela City

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS
ENROLLING IN TEACHER EDUCATION AND PROVIDING
INCENTIVES FOR TEACHING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Teacher Education Scholarship Program of 2016".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. Towards this end, the State shall continue to develop programs that will encourage the youth to pursue an education in teaching and provide them with opportunities for employment by serving their countrymen as rural teachers.

SEC. 3. General Objectives. - The scholarship program shall be offered to deserving students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Education degree or training in teacher education, as well as providing them with incentives to pursue a career in teaching in their home regions or in other rural areas.

SEC. 4. Scholarship Program. - This Act envisions a four-year full-time scholarship program to be offered to deserving students based on meritocracy for those eligible who will take up teacher education or Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Education, or any other

teacher training program or course under Republic Act No. 7836, otherwise known as the 'Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act of 1994."

The graduate of this program shall render services and be integrated into any public school in their home region or other rural public elementary or secondary school in the Philippines_

SEC. 5. *Eligibility and Qualifications.* - There shall be an annual selection through appropriate examinations and screening process of those who shall be admitted to the Teacher Education Scholarship Program, hereinafter referred to as the Program. The candidates shall be chosen from among qualified secondary graduates whether from the private or public high schools. The qualified and selected scholars shall be granted scholarship to enroll in a teacher education course and shall cover expenses for matriculation and other school fees, prescribed textbooks, supplies and equipment, clothing and uniform allowances, and other related miscellaneous expense.

At least ten (10) candidates per province shall be chosen to participate in the Program every year.

An applicant whose family's combined gross income is not more than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) per month or One hundred fifty thousand pesos (P150,000.00) per year or those whose parent is a barangay worker, government employee or a member of an indigenous cultural community shall be given priority in the selection.

SEC. 6. *General Conditions for Admission to the Scholarship.* - A teacher education scholar shall be accepted to the Program and shall receive and continue to enjoy the benefits of the scholarship until the completion of the course, subject to the following conditions:

- a) The scholar shall pass the entrance or admission examinations and related requirements of the school where the scholar intends to enroll;
- b) The scholar shall carry the full load of subjects prescribed per semester and shall, under no circumstance, drop a course which will result in underloading;
- c) The scholar may be allowed, for valid reasons, to defer enrollment and of availing of the scholarship for a period not exceeding one school year;

d) Upon completion of the course and other relevant training, the scholar shall agree to teach in any public elementary or secondary school in the scholar's home region or in any rural public school for a period of at least five (5) years;

e) The scholar shall repay the full cost of the scholarship and related benefits received in the event of the scholar's failure to complete the teaching education course without valid cause; and
The scholar shall sign an agreement stating the terms and conditions of the scholarship.

SEC. 6. *Secretariat.* - The Secretary of Education may create a Secretariat to provide administrative and technical assistance to effectively and efficiently implement the Program. It shall perform the duties and responsibilities as may be determined and delegated by the Secretary of Education. The support staff as may be created shall be recruited preferably from any accredited teacher organization or the academe.

SEC. 7. *Donations, Grants and Other Contributions.* - The DepEd may accept any donation, contribution, bequest, grant, in cash or services, whether local or foreign, which may be made by individuals and organizations, to fund the Program. Such donation, contribution, bequest, grant, in cash or services shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as an allowable deduction from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

Proceeds from at least two (2) draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes every year shall also be allocated to finance the Program.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* - The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act. Thereafter, such funds necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the appropriations of the Department of Education (DepEd) in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall, in

consultation with schools offering education for teachers and other relevant stakeholders, issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,