

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5346

Introduced by HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A FULL SUBSIDY PROGRAM IN STATE UNIVERSITIES FOR CHILDREN OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Public school teachers are dedicating their lives to the education of the youth for they appreciate the value of education. Many of our public school teachers sacrifice higher paying jobs and more comfortable working environments to answer their calling of educating those from less fortunate families.

Their act of public service is invaluable to the lives of their students and molding the future of our country. But as they fulfill their vocation, they too struggle to afford the tuition fees of their own children. With the meager salaries of public school teachers, paying for a college education comes as a heavy burden.

To unburden our modern-day heroes and to promote the value of education and becoming an educator, this bill endeavors to provide full tuition subsidies available in all State Universities and Colleges in the Philippines for the children of public school teachers. This measure is in line with our efforts to improve access to quality education for every young Filipino and sends the message that becoming an educator within our public school system is a dignified vocation worthy of special benefits from the State.

Let's continue to support and reward citizens who take part in nation building and creating a brighter future for the next generation of young Filipinos.

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

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

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

Section 1. Title.- This Act shall be known as the "Free Education For Public School Teachers Children Act".

Section 2. Declaration of Policy.- The State shall give priority to education, science, technology, arts, sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, promote total human liberation and development. It is further declared the policy of the State to take positive and effective measures towards the promotion of the morale and welfare of public school teachers. Furthermore, the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth, patriotism, nationalism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Section 3. Full Education Subsidy Program.- There is hereby adopted a Full Education Subsidy Program, a nationwide program that offers full subsidy to all the children of public school teachers in all levels who want to pursue baccalaureate degrees or short-term training courses in State Universities.

The full subsidy program shall cover 100% of the tuition fee and other miscellaneous expenses necessary upon the enrolment of the student in a State College or University.

Section 4. Qualifications.- Children of public school teachers who possess all the following qualifications shall automatically be granted full subsidy under the program:

1. Must be a Filipino citizen;

2. Parent is a regular public school teacher as certified by the Department of Education;
3. Shall have passed the respective academic eligibility as prescribed by the State College or University upon entry;
4. Shall not have availed of any local/foreign scholarship grant from the government;
5. Must not have a bachelor's degree or equivalent degree from any higher educational institution, whether public or private;
6. Must not have been dishonourably discharged from any higher education institution, whether public or private, for any reason other than financially difficulty in paying tuition and other fees;
7. Must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude;
8. Persons who fail to regain any good academic standing within their State University and Colleges after one (1) year after being placed on academic probation or delinquent status.

Section 5. Sources.- The sources of funds for the implementation of this Act shall be as follows:

- a. For the first year of implementation, from the appropriations set aside by State Colleges and Universities for scholarships and subsidies;
- b. For the succeeding years of implementation, such amounts as are needed shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act; and complemented by the savings generated from the different bureaus, offices and agencies and by the contributions extended by private corporations, companies and entities.

Section 6. Rules and Regulations.- The Commission on Higher Education in coordination with the Department of Education and the UniFAST (Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act and determine the process for claiming the full subsidy and other responsibilities of the grantee within the parameters of this Act.

Section 7. Separability Clause.- If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 8. Repealing Clause.- All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,