

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5547**



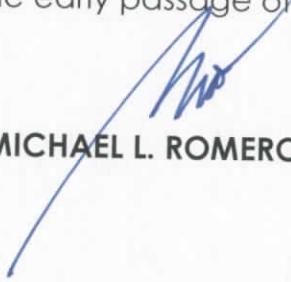
Introduced by REP. Michael L. Romero and Enrico A. Pineda

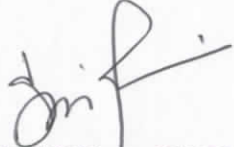
EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is imperative that the State shall uplift the standards of legal education in order to prepare law students for advocacy, counseling, problem-solving, and decision-making, to infuse in them the ethics of the legal profession; to impress on them the importance, nobility and dignity of the legal profession as an equal and indispensable partner of the Bench in the administration of justice and to develop social competence.

This House Bill seeks to undertake appropriate reforms in the legal education system, require proper selection of law students, maintain quality among law schools, and require legal apprenticeship and continuing legal education.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D


ENRICO A. PINEDA

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Introduced by REP. Michael L. Romero and Enrico A. Pineda

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.7662 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE "LEGAL EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1993", TO PROVIDE
ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL FUNDING, TO PROMOTE FACULTY
DEVELOPMENT GRANTS, LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS AND OTHER
SIMILAR PROGRAMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LAW TEACHING
AND EDUCATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the
Philippines in congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. TITLE - This Act shall be known as the "**Legal Education
Reform Act of 2017**"

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY -

Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7662, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 11. Legal Education Fund - There is hereby created a special endowment fund, to be known as the Legal Education Fund, which shall be under the control of the Board, and administered as a separate fund by the Social Security System (SSS) which shall invest the same with due and prudent regard to its solvency, safety and liquidity.

The Legal Education Fund shall be established out of, and maintained from, the amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph 2, Section 13 hereof (RA7662), and from Seventy five percent **(75%)** of the privilege tax paid by every lawyer effective **Fiscal Year 2018**; and from such donations, legacies, grant-in-aid and other forms of contributions received by the Legal Education Board (LEB) for the purposes of this Act.

Being a special endowment fund, only the interests earned on the Legal Education Fund shall be used exclusively for the purposes of this Act, including support for faculty development grants, professorial chairs, library improvements and similar programs for the advancement of law teaching and education in accredited law schools.

The Fund shall also be used for the operation of the LEB.

For this purpose, an amount not exceeding fifteen percent **(15%)** of the interest on the Fund shall be utilized.

The LEB, in consultation with the Social Security System (SSS), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the collection, administration and utilization of the Fund.

SECTION 3. DECLARATION OF POLICY -

Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7662, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 12. Coverage - The provisions of this Act shall apply to all schools and colleges of law which are presently under the supervision of the existing Legal Education Board (LEB).

Hereafter, said supervision shall be transferred to the Board. Law schools and colleges which shall be established following the approval of this Act shall likewise be covered.

SECTION 4. DECLARATION OF POLICY -

Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7662, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 13. Appropriation - The amount of Twenty Million Pesos (**₱20,000,000.00**) is hereby authorized to be charged against the current year's appropriation of the Contingent Fund for the initial expenses of the LEB.

To form part of the Legal Education Fund, The state shall hereby appropriate annually, the amount of Twenty Million Pesos (**₱20,000,000.00**) for a period of Twenty **(20)** years effective **Fiscal Year 2018**.

Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 5. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 6. REPEALING CLAUSE. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,