

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6224



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public school teachers are the unsung heroes of this nation. Much is owed to them who tirelessly educate millions of Filipinos despite the perennial problems of our education sector. For instance, there are 21 million public school students from kindergarten to high school, and barely 800,000 public school teachers. These figures translate to a whopping 1:80 teacher to student ratio in some of the most congested public schools in the country¹. The Department of Education (DepEd) recognizes an ideal ratio of one teacher per 30 students only. However, on top of the lack of teachers, is the substantial insufficiency of classrooms in most public schools as well.

In 2004, DepEd introduced the double-shift policy to address the aforementioned issues, and consequently achieved a 1:55 improved teacher to student ratio². Unfortunately, as a result of such policy, some public school teachers now cover up to two to three shifts per day with classes starting as early as 6AM and ending late in the afternoon. The daily work of teachers is not limited to the hours spent inside classrooms. In fact, much time and money are also spent preparing lesson plans, creating lesson materials like visual aids, designing and checking

¹ <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/nation/613262/students-troop-to-schools-for-first-day-of-school-year-amid-rains-jeepney-strike/story/>

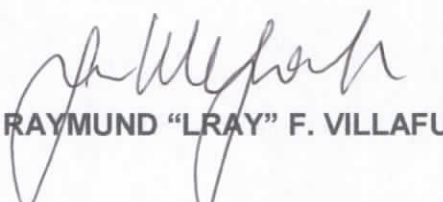
² <http://www.deped.gov.ph/orders/do-62-s-2004>

homework and exams, and ensuring the safety of students inside school premises even after class hours.

For all the services and work hours rendered by a Teacher I, he or she takes home a standard monthly net income of ₱16,000 only³ under the Salary Standardization Law (SSL). Additionally, teachers are provided an annual ₱ 1,500 “chalk” allowance or ₱7 a day for school supplies. This amount is obviously not enough for all the requirements of their workload and the number of their students. Hence, many teachers are forced to buy their classroom supplies using their own money, further burdening their monthly salaries and straining finances. Since 2012, this amount has been subjected to various adjustments and even threats of dissolution.

This bill seeks to, once and for all, institutionalize a yearly teaching supplies allowance for teachers in the amount of ₱ 3,000 on top of their salaries. A handful of House bills had already been previously filed to address the inadequacy of the current amount but not one of such bills was passed, and Filipino public teachers continue to bear this additional encumbrance.

The importance of this bill cannot be overemphasized. Twenty-one million young Filipino minds are educated and shaped by our public school teachers. It is hereby the duty of the State to ensure that their teaching resources are sufficient, and working conditions optimal. In view of the foregoing, we earnestly request the doubling of the “chalk” allowance of public school teachers through the passage of this bill.



LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

³ <http://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/61149-how-much-public-school-teachers-take-home-pay>

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2017."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and improve the economic status of teachers and assist them in providing quality education to their students.

SECTION 3. Teaching Supplies Allowance. – A Teaching Supplies Allowance for the purchase of chalks, erases, forms and other classroom supplies and materials in the amount of ₱ 3,000.00 per teacher per school is hereby authorized.

SECTION 4. Coverage. – The grant of cash allowance authorized in this Act shall be limited to teachers who are engaged in actual classroom teaching in public basic education.

SECTION 5. Funding. – An amount of Three Thousand Pesos (₱ 3,000.00) shall be annually appropriated in the General Appropriations Act for the grant of the Teaching Supplies Allowance: *Provided*, That in the first year of effectivity of this Act, the amount of One Thousand Pesos (₱ 1,000.00) shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd for the purpose, while, the amount of Two Thousand Pesos (₱ 2,000.00) shall be sourced from the fifty (50%) percent share of the Government in aggregate gross earnings of the Philippine Gaming Corporations (PAGCOR) after deducting the five (5%) percent Franchise Tax.

SECTION 6. Periodic Review for Increases. – The Secretary of Education is hereby mandated to conduct a periodic review of the Teaching Supplies Allowance, taking into account the current prices of classroom supplies, and, if warranted, recommend the necessary increase in the amount of the allowance.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, resolutions, orders or ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,