

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8495



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2 Section 17 of the Constitution states:

“SEC. 17. The State shall give priority to education, science, and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development.”

Brain drain is a common phenomenon over the last several decades. It involves many of our teachers who go abroad to seek greener pastures. As a result, we continue to lose teachers in our schools and unnecessarily increase the burden of teaching the ever growing number of our students to the teachers that actually stay. However, this phenomenon does not only occur from our country to overseas. It is also happening from our rural schools to urban cities. Substandard facilities and even more substandard communities make for additional burdens to our teachers who teach in rural areas.

Many of our teachers find it really hard to realistically make a career teaching in these communities much less thrive in them. As such there is little incentive for the highly qualified teachers to go and stay in rural schools. As legislators, we must acknowledge the higher level of challenge presented in those areas and provide better incentives to highly qualified teachers. It is not only our duty to provide education to our children in those areas, but also to provide high quality education, that they may be able to develop into good citizens that will help their communities and our country.

Initially, we need to establish an incentive program that will entice our highly qualified teachers to stay. A competitive program of grants to qualified provinces will not only motivate the provinces to develop their programs for the rural community but likewise allow us to focus the limited resources to the provinces that is in the position to make use of the funds best.

This bill seeks to establish a program that will provide financial assistance to qualified provinces in order to create an incentive system for highly qualified teachers who shall commit to stay and teach for at least three years

This bill was previously filed in the 15th Congress by former Aurora Rep. Sonny Angara.

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


Rep. Gary C. Alejano

1 **SEC. 4. *Basis.***—The Secretary shall award grants under this section on the basis of the
2 needs of rural local educational agencies within a province for recruiting and retaining highly
3 qualified teachers or highly qualified special education teachers.

4 **SEC. 5. *Consideration of Needs.***—In determining the needs of rural local educational
5 agencies for recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and highly qualified special education
6 teachers under this section, the Secretary shall consider 1 or more of the following:

7 a. The impact on a rural local educational agency of low-income students who are
8 served by the rural local educational agency.

9 b. The impact on a rural local educational agency of children with a disability who
10 are served by the rural local educational agency.

11 c. The long-term plans of a province to improve the recruitment and retention of
12 highly qualified teachers and highly qualified special education teachers in rural local educational
13 agencies within the province.

14 **SEC. 6. *Application.***—A province that desires to receive a grant under this section shall
15 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such
16 information as the Secretary may require. The application shall contain a plan for the proposed
17 distribution and use of the grant funds among rural and local educational agencies within the
18 province.

19 **SEC. 7. *Use of Funds.***—Grant funds under this section shall be used to provide salary
20 bonuses for highly qualified teachers or highly qualified special education teachers who teach, or
21 commit to teach, for at least three (3) academic years, in an elementary school or secondary school
22 served by the same rural local educational agency.

23 **SEC. 8. *Study.***—The Secretary shall carry out a study of each project that is funded under
24 this Act. The study shall track and assess the implementation and effectiveness of each project.

25 **SEC. 9. *Report.***—

26 a. **Annual Reports from Provinces.**—Each province receiving a grant under this
27 Act shall submit an annual report to the Secretary regarding each project within the State that is
28 funded under this Act. The report shall contain such information as the Secretary determines
29 necessary to evaluate the project.

1 **b. Report to Congress.**—The Secretary shall submit a report on the study described
2 in Section 8 to the appropriate committees in the Senate and in the House of Representatives
3 within five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act.

4 1. the number of rural local educational agencies assisted under this Act;

5 2. the characteristics of such rural local educational agencies with respect to
6 the considerations of needs described in section (5)(c);

7 3. the number and demographic characteristics of teachers receiving bonuses
8 under this Act;

9 4. the impact of the bonuses provided under this Act on the ability of rural
10 local educational agencies assisted under this Act to recruit and retain highly
11 qualified teachers and highly qualified special education teachers; and

12 5. such other information and analysis as the Secretary determines necessary
13 to evaluate the projects.

14 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.**—The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act
15 shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Education under the current
16 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its full implementation
17 shall be included shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act as a distinct and
18 separate item.

19 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.**—All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with
20 the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

21 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.**—If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or
22 unconstitutional, the other parts not otherwise affected shall remain in full effect and force.

23 **SEC. 13. Effectivity.**—This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,