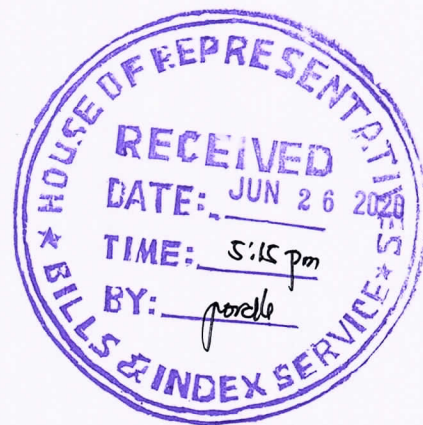


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 7034



Introduced by
ACT Teachers Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
BAYAN MUNA Party-List Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
Rep. FERDINAND GAITE and Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS,
and **KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MONTHLY INTERNET ALLOWANCE FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As provided in the 1987 Constitution, Article XIV, Section 1, "*The State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all.*" Allegedly to fulfill this mandate even during this COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Education (DepEd) approved the blended learning program which proposes various approaches or methods of learning, such as distance learning and online learning.

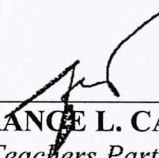
However, it is highly unlikely that the said constitutional mandate will indeed be met, as majority of public school teachers are unprepared and unable to adopt this kind of method due to lack of reliable internet connection.

During the first week of June 2020, teachers nationwide—including those in urban centers where Internet connection is supposed to be stronger—have already struggled with various tasks requiring the use of information and communications technology, from online enrolment of students, online in-service trainings, video conferences and meetings, online reading of forms, up to preparation of online classroom and instructional materials for the school opening on August 24, 2020. With such bulk of online tasks and substantial need for digital access, teachers who only rely mostly on mobile data cannot fulfill such duties. A reliable internet connection is a vital component for DepEd's alternative work schemes such as work-from-home arrangements and distance learning.

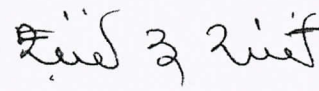
With their measly salaries barely sufficient to provide for their personal needs and that of their families, teachers now face the constant choices of how much they must tighten their belts or whether they could be frugal at the expense of their students. Neither decision is humane, just, or acceptable. Government must not leave public school teachers to their own devices, especially considering that this need for stable Internet access is for their official duties as teachers, and for them to fulfill a core function of government—the delivery of public education.

Hence, this bill seeks to grant all public school teachers an amount of P1,500 as a monthly Internet allowance to help them cope with the requirements of the blended learning program, deliver the outputs of distance education which are expected of them, and adjust to the demands in education brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the foregoing reasons, urgent approval of this bill is sought.



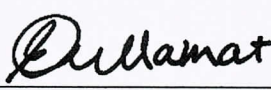
Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Party-List



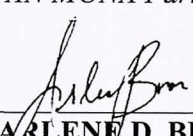
Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



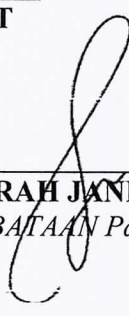
Rep. FERDINAND GAITE
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



Rep. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
BAYAN MUNA Party-List



Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women's Party



Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
KABATAAN Party-List

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MONTHLY INTERNET ALLOWANCE FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the ***"Internet Allowance for Public School Teachers Act of 2020."***

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. In order to provide quality education and to ensure that our teachers are given the support they need in the undertaking of their profession, the State shall provide every public school teacher an Internet allowance to fulfill the objectives of the blended learning program. It is also hereby declared that enabling every public school teacher to have a reliable Internet connection is an indispensable component of the functions of the State in improving learning instruction and the delivery of education.

SECTION 3. *Internet Allowance.* An Internet Allowance of P1,500 per month is hereby granted to all public school teachers.

SECTION 4. *Coverage.* This Act shall cover all public school teachers who are engaged in the blended learning program both in elementary and secondary public schools.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Education and the Department of Budget and Management shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the faithful and effective implementation of the provisions of this Act within thirty (30) days from the date of its effectivity.

Failure of the agencies to comply with the mandate under this Section will render the responsible officials liable under the relevant administrative and criminal laws.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* Upon effectivity of this Act, the amounts necessary for its implementation shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DepEd. Thereafter, the funds shall be provided in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Periodic Review for Increases.* The Secretary of Education is hereby mandated to conduct a periodic review of the Internet Allowance, taking into account the current rates of Internet service subscription plans, and if warranted, recommend the necessary increase in the amount of the allowance.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* Any provision of laws, orders, agreements, rules, or regulations contrary to and inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication either in the *Official Gazette*, or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,