

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7667



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

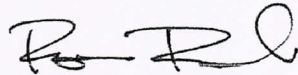
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 6728, as amended by Republic Act No. 8545, otherwise known as the "Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act" or E-GASTPE, has been successful in aiding students and teachers in their financial needs, to enable the students continue their education and the teachers to further develop their professional skills.

Nevertheless, there is a need to expand the coverage of E-GASTPE and include as beneficiaries elementary students and teachers in private schools. Many families prefer to enroll their children in small and medium private schools due to the increasing number of students in public elementary schools. However, due to the ongoing pandemic brought about by COVID-19, several households have significantly decreased, if not totally lost, their source of income and now cannot afford to send their children in private schools while trying to continue to provide for the basic necessities of their family.

This bill seeks to help these families while supporting the Department of Education in declogging and decreasing the overcrowded classrooms in public elementary schools in order to accomplish the mandate of the Constitution to make quality education accessible to all.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Romulo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ROMAN T. ROMULO
Lone District of Pasig City

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AN ACT PROPOSING FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF SECTION 3, SECTIONS 4, 5, 6, 7, 12 AND 14, RA 6728, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT, AS AMENDED BY RA 8545, TO INCLUDE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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

SECTION. 1. Paragraph 3 of Section 3, Sections 4, 5, 6, 7 and 14 of Republic Act No. 6728, otherwise known as the "*Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education Act*," as amended by Republic Act No. 8545, are hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. Criteria for Assistance. – The programs for assistance shall be based on a set of criteria which shall include, among others, tuition fees charged by the schools, the socioeconomic needs of each region giving priority to the Social Reform Agenda (SRA) provinces, overall performance of the schools, the academic qualifications and the financial needs of the students and the teachers and the financial needs of the schools, as well as the geographic spread and size of student population.

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"Preference shall be given to students **belonging to low and middle-income families, based on the data provided by the Philippine Statistics Authority,** [WHOSE FAMILY INCOME IS NOT MORE THAN SEVENTY-TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P72,000.00)] or such amounts **of the family income of the student** as may be determined by the respective councils, as defined hereinafter.

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SEC. 4. Forms of Assistance. – Assistance to private education shall consist of assistance to students and assistance to teachers.

"The following are forms of assistance to students in private education:

"(1) Tuition fee supplements for students in private **elementary and** high schools, including students in vocational and technical courses;

"(2) **Elementary and** High School Textbook Assistance Fund: Provided, That the textbook assistance per student in private **elementary and** high schools shall be determined by the council and shall not exceed what students in public **elementary and** high schools are provided on a per student basis under a comprehensive textbook program of the Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP): Provided, further, That the textbook assistance shall be granted only to beneficiaries of tuition fee supplements and educational service contracting scheme provided in this Act;

"(3) Expansion of the existing Educational Service Contracting (ESC) Scheme;

"(4) The voucher system of the Private Education Student Financial Assistance Program (PESFA);

"(5) Scholarship grants to students graduating as valedictorians and salutatorians from **elementary and** secondary schools;

"(6) Tuition fee supplements to students in private colleges and universities; and

"(7) Education Loan Fund.

"The following are forms of assistance to teachers and faculty in private education:

"(1) In-service training fund for teachers in private **elementary and** high schools; and

"(2) College Faculty Development Fund.

"SEC. 5. Tuition Fee Supplements for Students in Private **Elementary and** High Schools. – (1) Financial Assistance for tuition for students in private **elementary and** high schools shall be provided by the government through a voucher system in the following manner:

"(a) For students enrolled in schools charging an amount as may be determined by the State Assistance Council, the government shall provide them with a voucher in such an amount as may be determined by the council: Provided, That the government shall reimburse the vouchers from the schools concerned within one hundred twenty (120) days from the close of the registration period.

"(2) Assistance under paragraph (1), subparagraph (a) shall be guaranteed to all private **elementary and** high schools participating in the program for a number of slots as of the effectivity of this Act as the total number of students who availed of tuition fee supplements for the school year **2020-2021** [1997-1998]: Provided, That the State Assistance Council may in subsequent years determine additional slots and/or additional participating elementary and high schools as may be deemed necessary.

"SEC. 6. **Elementary and** High School Textbook Assistance Fund. – There shall be established in the Department of Education[, CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS)] **(DepEd)**, an **Elementary and** High School Textbook Assistance Fund, so that assistance on a per student basis shall be given to students enrolled in private schools exclusively for the purchase of elementary and high school textbooks, in support of the

implementation of **Republic Act No. 10533, otherwise known as the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013"** [SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM]: Provided, that the textbook assistance per student in private **elementary and** high schools are provided on a per student basis: Provided, further, That the textbook assistance shall be granted only to beneficiaries of tuition fee supplements and educational service contracting scheme provided in this Act.

"SEC. 7. Expansion of the Existing Educational Service Contracting (ESC) Scheme. – (a) The Department of Education[, CULTURE AND SPORTS (DECS)] (**DepEd**) shall continue to enter into contracts with private schools whereby the government shall shoulder the tuition and other fees of **elementary and** high school students who shall enroll in private **elementary and** high schools under this program.

"(b) The Department shall also enter into contracts with private schools in communities where there are no public **elementary and** high schools, in which case the Department shall shoulder the tuition and other fees of students who shall enroll in said private schools.

"(c) The amount of assistance to be given by the government under this section shall not exceed that determined as the per student cost in public **elementary and** high schools.

"(d) The Department shall fully pay the subsidized amount to participating schools not later than one hundred eighty (180) days from the close of the registration period.

"(e) The amount of assistance shall be allocated and distributed among the **seventeen (17)** [SIXTEEN (16)] regions in proportion to the total population as well as the **elementary and** high school age population for the first year: Provided, That starting school year **2021** [1998], an equalization scheme shall be implemented by the State Assistance Council.

"(f) The amount of assistance to private **elementary and** high schools participating in the program shall be guaranteed for a number of slots as of the effectivity of this Act as the number of students availing of educational service contracting assistance for school year **2020-2021** [1997-1998]: Provided, That the State Assistance Council may, in subsequent years determine

additional slots and/or additional participating private **elementary and** high schools as may be deemed necessary.

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"SEC. 12. In-service Training Fund (Inset Fund). – For the purpose of improving the quality of teaching in private **elementary and** secondary education, there is hereby established in the Department of Education[, CULTURE AND SPORTS] an Inset Fund to provide for the upgrading of knowledge and teaching competencies in critical subject areas and for the modernization of teaching techniques and strategies, including training in the use of computers and of other multi-media educational technologies to assist instruction: Provided, That the Inset Fund available to private **elementary and** secondary education shall not exceed that available to public **elementary and** secondary education on a per capita basis.

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"SEC. 14. Teachers' Salary Subsidy Fund. – A Teachers' Salary Subsidy Fund is hereby established in the **DepEd** [DECS] to grant government subsidy to teachers in private **elementary and junior and senior** high schools participating in the programs of assistance provided in this Act: Provided, That the total monthly salary which includes the subsidy to be received by such private **elementary and** high school teachers shall not be more than eighty percent (80%) of the salary of his counterpart in the public sector: Provided, further, That the amount of monthly subsidy shall not exceed the amount of any monthly salary increase that teachers in public **elementary and junior and senior** high schools shall after the effectivity of this Act hereinafter receive: Provided, further, That private **elementary and junior and senior** high school teachers qualified to receive subsidy under this act are duly licensed by the Professional Regulation Commission: Provided, further, That the government shall provide them with a voucher for the salary subsidy which shall be reimbursed directly to the teachers within sixty (60) days after the close of the school year upon submission of proof of qualification and actual teaching service in a participating private **elementary and junior and senior** high school: Provided, further, That the present allocation out of increases from tuition and other

income shall be maintained: Provided, finally, That in case of insufficiency of funds, priority shall be given to married teachers supporting a family."

SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and subsisting.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days following its publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,