

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)

Third Regular Session



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 10177

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Last December 2020, the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study for 2019 (TIMSS) revealed that Filipino students lagged behind other countries in the international assessment for mathematics and science. The country scored lower "than any other participating countries, with a total score of 297 in mathematics and 249 in science.

While the Philippines only participated in the grade 4 assessment, this this not the first time the country found itself in the bottom end of the list in terms of students' competence. In the 2018 Philippine National Report, only 1 out of 5 students achieved at least the minimum proficiency for math. In 2019, the Philippines scored the lowest in reading comprehension among 79 countries conducted by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

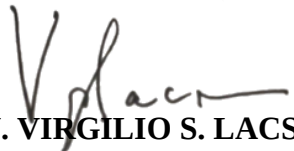
It has become evident that the performance of Filipino students in core competencies, such as math, science, and reading, has been abysmal in the recent years. The Department of Education has said that it will continue to reform and upgrade its education curriculum to provide quality education for students of basic education. The results of these assessments should be a wake-up call to legislators to continuously think of ways on how quality education may be attained in the country.

This bill aims to provide free scholarship grants for Master's Degree to teachers in entry-level *plantilla* positions who seek career advancement to Master Teacher, in exchange of 5 years of return of service in any public school in the country.

V. Lacson

Teachers are catalysts of national development. Enhancing teachers' quality and upholding quality teaching standards must be prioritized, as it makes them more equipped in training young minds.

For the foregoing reason, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



HON. VIRGILIO S. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party-list

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AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS FOR MASTER’S DEGREE TO ENTRY-LEVEL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS SEEKING CAREER ADVANCEMENT TO BECOME MASTER TEACHERS, IN RETURN OF FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Teacher Advancement Program Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State to provide support and access to free education to public school entry-level teachers who seek career advancement as Master Teachers by providing institutionalized scholarship grants for the completion of their Master’s Degree.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the term:

“Free educational scholarship grants” shall refer to scholarship grants for public school teachers who shall enroll into a Master’s/Post Graduate Degree program for career advancement as Master Teacher in public schools.

“Public school teachers” shall refer to all persons engaged in classroom teaching, in any level of instruction, on a full-time basis in all public schools operated by the Government or its political subdivisions.

“Return of service” shall refer to the mandatory rendering of five years of service in a public school in the Philippines upon completion of the Master’s/Post graduate degree availed under the free educational scholarship grant offered in this Act.

V. Lacson

SECTION 4. Eligibility of public school teachers to avail of grant. – Public school teachers who are Filipino citizens, are in active service, and are holding *plantilla* positions as Teacher I, II, and III candidates shall be eligible to avail of the scholarship grants to enroll in any tertiary school or university offering master’s degree program, provided that the public school teacher shall have been in active duty for at least three consecutive years immediately prior to the date of application for the grant.

SECTION 5. Forfeiture of Grant. - Public school teachers who have been charged and proven to have committed acts of professional misconduct shall forfeit their eligibility to avail of the grant.

SECTION 6. Discontinuation of return of service. – Public school teachers who shall fail to complete the five-year return of service shall be liable to refund the Government, in the amount proportion to the number of years they have failed to complete. The Department of Education shall formulate the appropriate rules for computation under this provision.

SECTION 7. Implementing Agency. – The Department of Education (DepEd) shall be the implementing agencies for this Act. The above agencies shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. - The Department of Education shall include in their annual budgets the necessary funds needed to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Placer', is located in the bottom right corner of the page.